SPACE GEEKS TWEEPING NASA LAUNCH, PG10

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TORON DAY, N 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 37

Angie more crafty than Jen?

Books back and a cool G to boot

BIZARRE A high school librarian in Phoenix says a former student at the Arizona school returned two overdue books checked out 51 years ago along with a $1,000 money order to cover the fines.

Camelback High School librarian Georgette Bordine says the two Audubon Society books checked out in 1959 and the money order were sent by someone who wanted to remain anonymous.

The letter said the money order was to cover fines of 2 cents per day for each book. That would total about $745. The letter says the extra money was added in case the rates had changed.

Bordine says the money will buy more books, and the overdue books will be returned to the shelves.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

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Canada pg 7

Clown trumps war: Study

On the web

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Parade **Santa fever**

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A young girl watches the 105th annual Santa Claus parade move by yesterday. Parents, children, and regular folk filled with holiday cheer lined the city's streets, while some 1,500 volunteers marched along the winding parade route, which began on Bloor Street and ended near the St. Lawrence Market. The parade, which launched in 1905, has become an annual tradition in Toronto.

Tossing vaccines

Toronto clinics lose 500 doses to 24-hour shelf life

Flu **Outbreak**

Some health authorities across the country have tossed out hundreds of doses of the swine flu vaccine because of miscalculations over how many of the time-sensitive dosages are needed at community clinics.

Officials at some of the larger health districts, including Toronto and Halifax, say they have thrown out about one per cent of the total vaccine they've administered because of the dosages' 24-hour shelf life.

> **"Once it's in the syringe ... and it's not used, we have to dispose of it."**
> Ameeta Mathur, Toronto Public Health

In Toronto, that means close to 500 doses of the adjuvanted vaccine have been disposed of even as people remain shut out of the priority groups entitled to receive the shot.

"We reconstitute as much vaccine as we think we're going to need, but sometimes our numbers are a wee bit off," said Ameeta Mathur, manager of the vaccine program for Toronto Public Health.

"Once it's in the syringe from the vial and it's not used, we have to dispose of it."

She said it can't be put back in the vial nor can they use syringes the next day because of the lack of data on the vaccine's stability.

The Toronto health authority is using a ticket system for people lining up to get the vaccine, giving nurses an idea of how many doses to draw through the day.

But Mathur said they sometimes get the numbers wrong and are stuck with vaccine they can't use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PG 7, 25

McGuinty announces $200,000 for Philippines relief

FUNDING Victims of a string of typhoons in the Philippines are getting a helping hand from Premier Dalton McGuinty.

McGuinty says Ontario will give $200,000 to relief efforts in the country.

Back-to-back storms in late September and early October killed more than 900 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

A third typhoon in late October killed at least seven more.

The money, announced yesterday, will be channelled through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In a prepared statement, McGuinty offered his prayers and thoughts to the country as it works to rebuild.

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Local

New leader for Greens

Toronto businessman and entrepreneur Mike Schreiner is the new leader of the Green Party of Ontario. Schreiner was the only candidate running to replace outgoing leader Frank de Jong. He was confirmed to the position Saturday evening at the party's leadership convention in London, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video This week's consumer spending report likely to set the tone for North American markets at **metronews.ca/canada**

Immigration Guidy Mamann on how a court decision may give relief to sponsors on the hook for social assistance at **metro news.ca /immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Nov. 13
Lotto Max: 8, 18, 27, 28, 38, 41 & 48. Bonus 36
Saturday, Nov. 14
Lotto 6/49: 1, 9, 19, 25, 31 & 41. Bonus 42
Sunday, Nov. 15
Ontario Pick 3: 0 8 5; **Ontario Pick 4** : 3 0 8 2
Encore: 5728835;
Daily Keno: 5, 9, 10, 13, 24, 25, 29, 37, 41, 49, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 64, 65, 66, 70.
These results are not official.

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Liberals push ahead on tax plan

Legislation to be introduced today would harmonize GST, PST

Ontario's Liberal government will introduce legislation today to proceed with its controversial plan to harmonize the province's eight per cent sales tax with the five per cent GST, a move the opposition parties call a blatant tax grab.

The legislation will also include a package of cuts to income, small business and corporate taxes and provide for tax rebate cheques of up to $1,000 for families to offset the HST, which will add eight per cent to many items currently exempt from the provincial sales tax.

"Right now there's a hidden tax — businesses pay tax on tax on tax."
Finance Minister Dwight Duncan

The idea of harmonization is to make Ontario businesses more competitive by lowering their taxes, which allows them to create more jobs, said Finance Minister Dwight Duncan.

"Right now there's a hidden tax — businesses pay tax on tax on tax," said Duncan. "This unbuttons that, puts the money back into their pockets. They in turn hire people and also by the way, lower prices."

Critics point out that businesses may not in fact pass on their tax savings by lowering prices, but the government says competition will lead to lower prices, as it has done in other places that harmonized sales taxes.

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives oppose harmonization as a "massive tax grab," even though it was their federal Conservative cousins who convinced Ontario to sign on to the idea, with the help of a $4.3 billion grant from Ottawa.

Opposition Leader Tim Hudak has been travelling the province railing against what he calls the "Dalton sales tax."

"We always suspected this was a $3-billion greedy tax grab," said Hudak.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Championship **Paper covers rock**

A Michigan man has won the world Rock Paper Scissors championship in Toronto. Tim Conrad clinched the title after five hours of play and nine gruelling matches at the Steam Whistle Brewery early yesterday morning. Facing off against his best friend and teammate in the first all-American final in championship history, Conrad took down Tom Butkin with paper covering rock.

Brampton teen charged with first-degree murder

HOME INVASION An 18-year-old Brampton resident has been charged with first-degree murder after a targeted home invasion left George Kalogerakis dead on Nov. 12.

Kalogerakis, 38, who lived on Earth Star Trail with his 62-year-old mother was targeted by the suspects because he was believed to be holding a large amount of drugs in his home, police said.

Homicide detectives said he suffered extensive trauma, but did not confirm the cause. Kalogerakis succumbed to his injuries in hospital on the same day.

Brampton resident Isaac Kwakye, 18, was arrested on Saturday and was slated to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton yesterday, said Peel Regional police.

Police are still searching for two more suspects believed to be armed and extremely dangerous.

This was Peel's 18th homicide of the year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CRASH A man has died in hospital after a bizarre crash in Mississauga Saturday that saw an SUV crash through several yards. Peel Regional Police say that the man lost control of his vehicle, rolled between two homes, and smashed through a pair of backyard fences. The SUV kept rolling until it slammed into a home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Silk

Silk Myth #16:

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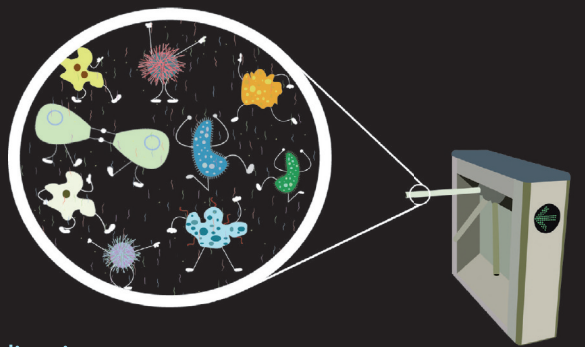

Crack more myths, like the ones about soy. BustitorBelieveit.ca

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Mistrial in murder case

A mistrial has been declared in the case of a woman accused of beating her young daughter to death. The jurors said Friday that they could not reach a unanimous verdict on the second-degree murder charge faced by Erika Mendieta, 33. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slow shopping season feared

Retailers expect holiday spending spree will be small due to economic woes

Shopping malls across the country are decked with sales as the holiday season gets underway, but even with plenty of fanfare, both retailers and shoppers seem to be reining in their expectations.

The days of the holiday spending spree are a thing of the past, it seems, and more people are tightening their gift-giving budgets as they search for as many deals as possible.

"There's actually not a lot of shopping activity, period," said Susan Ditchburn co-owner of clothing stores Noise and Decibel in downtown Toronto.

"We are getting people who are buying gift certificates just so they can come on Boxing Week and buy things on sale."

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Jimmy Choo frenzy at H&M at Eaton Centre on Saturday was an exception this holiday season. Many retailers are expecting the holiday boom to be more of a fizzle.

Blame it on the economy, which tore through the holiday season last year and hasn't let up much since. Statistics Canada reported that August retail sales rose 0.8 per cent to $34.5 billion, offsetting July's decline. However, they were also 3.7 per cent lower than the same time a year earlier.

Canadians are also worried about their jobs, after the country lost 71,000 jobs last month.

For bargain hunters waiting until the last minute, or even Boxing Day, this could be a year of disappointment. Retailers are expecting the holiday boom to be more of a fizzle and have planned accordingly.

Across North America, the inventories at many stores have been slashed compared with last year, meaning that popular items will be especially hard to find. Stores have also ramped up their sales early to capture as many shoppers as they can.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Struggling to find a home

HOUSING After five moves in as many years due to high rent and utility costs, the roof — literally — fell in on Brampton mother Colleen Richards and her family.

"It actually fell on my head," says Richards of the day last spring when the soggy living room ceiling in the family's mouldy two-bedroom apartment finally gave way.

"After all these years of struggling, it really struck me. We shouldn't have to live this way," says Richards, who has been slinging coffee at Tim Horton's since 2001 when her husband was laid off from Chrysler. He has since retrained as a chef and is working in a restaurant.

"We're hard-working people. We don't mind working hard. We'd just like a fair shake." But in communities such as Brampton, where subsidized housing is scarce, the Richards and their three teenaged children — like so many other low-income families — have few options.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Colleen Richards and her family — husband Phil and children Justin, 18 (not in photo), Jesse, 17, and Josie, 14 (not in photo), have moved five times in five years due to job loss and high rents in Brampton.

"We were nearly homeless. But there are so many different levels before you become truly homeless," says Richards, whose family was featured in a documentary film about homelessness in Toronto released last month by the Sky Works Charitable Foundation. "What is so troubling, is that ours is not a unique story."

Some 647,000 Ontarians pay more than 30 per cent of their income on rent; more than 129,000 households are waiting up to 20 years for a social housing unit where rents are geared to income.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local Muslims, Jews swap religious houses

RELIGION When their father Abraham died, Isaac and Ishmael put aside their differences to give him an honourable burial. For those members of a Scarborough mosque and a North York synagogue who spent this past weekend together, it was an example worth following.

"I've never been inside a synagogue, so I didn't know what to expect," said Imaan Javeed, 14, a member of the Islamic Foundation of Toronto. He was one of the 250 members of Congregation Darchei Noam and the IFT who took part in a Jewish-Muslim twinning weekend for the first time.

This is the second year more than 100 North American Jewish and Muslim congregations have visited each other's places of worship. For Darchei Noam and IFT, it started at the Sheppard Avenue W. synagogue on Friday, with prayers to begin the sabbath.

There, with his parents and 10-year old brother, Javeed noticed that the faiths ascribe similar attributes to God, including compassion.

> **"I've never been inside a synagogue, so I didn't know what to expect."**
> Imaan Javeed, 14

"I hope they get their questions answered and have any misunderstandings cleared up," he said as the Jewish group filed into IFT on Sunday afternoon. "And that they have a good time."

At the Nugget Road mosque, men and women sat on different sides of the auditorium, chatting and reading displays on Islam by students at the Sunni congregation's elementary school.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stimulus spending criticized

PARTISAN? It's no surprise to Richard Soberman that the federal stimulus program heavily favours Tory ridings and is not well focused on areas struggling with high unemployment.

The former head of civil engineering at the University of Toronto is a longtime analyst of government infrastructure programs. He's seen the good, the bad and the ugly.

The stimulus program that is the centrepiece in the government's so-called Economic Action Plan — the biggest infrastructure roll-out in recent history — has many of the hallmarks of the ugly, he says.

Analyses by The Canadian Press and others suggest the $16-billion stimulus plan heavily favours Tory ridings. At the same time, the funding has no direct correlation with high unemployment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds fight judges on Khadr case

GITMO The federal government says it's up to elected officials, not the courts, to decide whether Omar Khadr should come home to Canada.

Government counsel Robert Frater told a Supreme Court hearing Friday the Toronto-born Khadr's repatriation from a U.S. military prison in Cuba is a political choice as opposed to a legal obligation.

"In my respectful submission, we're in the realm of diplomacy here," Frater said to a courtroom packed with onlookers.

As the Supreme Court hearing was taking place, American authorities announced Khadr is among a group of terror suspects at Guantanamo who will be moved to the U.S. to face justice. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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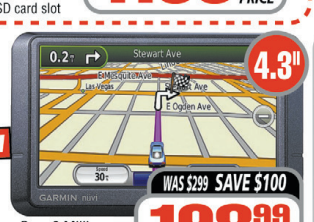

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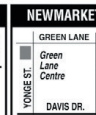

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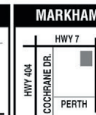

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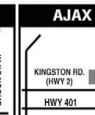

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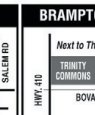

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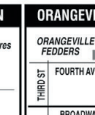

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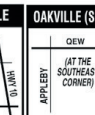

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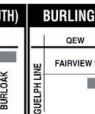

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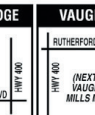

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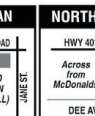

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Two men hospitalized after Flemingdon Park stabbing

A stabbing outside a Flemingdon Park apartment building sent two men in their 20s to hospital in serious condition. Around midnight the men, who police said are related, were stabbed in the Don Mills Road and Overlea Boulevard area. Police say they are looking for three suspects. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pickup cuts trashed

Arron Barberian was putting the garbage out at his downtown restaurant one evening early this month when a couple of Toronto bylaw inspectors walked by and told him: Sorry, no collection tonight.

That was the first Barberian had heard that the city was cutting back its collection of trash, recyclables and organic waste from twice a week to once in commercial areas.

Not all businesses in Toronto get municipal pickup; many must pay for private service. But many areas with stores on the ground floor and apartments above do get municipal service. And they're just waking up to the fact that pickup has been cut.

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, who heads the city's works committee, says Barberian and others who have complained simply have to get used to the new system, just as householders had to get used to blue, grey and green bins. "Give it six months. I don't think we'll have a single complaint," he says.

Barberian disagrees. "It's not healthy, it's not right. It doesn't help the city," he says, adding most businesses have no place to store garbage for a week at a time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arron Barberian, of Barberian's restaurant, objects to the city cutting back on its garbage collection.

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Deputy health minister quits

HEALTH One of the last remaining figures in the eHealth controversy has resigned just weeks after he was grilled by a legislative committee about the $1 billion Ontario has spent on an electronic health records system that's years away from completion.

Ron Sapsford

Deputy health minister Ron Sapsford, appointed in 2005, headed the largest bureaucracy in the Ontario government and oversaw the creation of eHealth.

Health Minister Deb Matthews acknowledged her deputy's resignation Friday but didn't provide a reason for his departure, which takes effect in the new year.

In the wake of Sapsford's resignation, eHealth also said it had cut two senior vice-presidents as it attempts to restructure its business and regain public confidence. The move is expected to save the agency a quarter million dollars per year.

Opposition critics were quick to attribute Sapsford's resignation to eHealth, a scandal that has already claimed David Caplan, who was forced to resign as health minister last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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University of Waterloo radio station closes
A University of Waterloo radio station is off the air after failing to win financial support from students in a recent referendum. CKMS 100.3 SoundFM's board of directors say that they've changed the locks at the station and that the situation is "grim." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

$3M to improve Six Nations policing

The provincial and federal governments are investing $3 million to improve police facilities at Six Nations. Brant MP Phil McColeman and Brant MPP Dave Levac joined Six Nations Chief Bill Montour Friday to make the joint announcement. Montour says he's pleased to get the funding, which will go towards building a state-of-the-art, ecologically responsible police station. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. election campaign underway

POLITICS New Brunswickers will go to the polls in a provincial election next September, but if the last three years are any indication, the next 10 months could prove a major challenge for Premier Shawn Graham's Liberal government as it seeks a second mandate.

Graham declared the campaign officially underway Saturday as he rallied the party faithful at their biennial policy convention in Fredericton.

Shawn Graham

It is the final time the party will gather to discuss policy before going to the polls.

But even in the effort to rally the 700 delegates, Graham was pushing yet another major policy that isn't sitting well with many New Brunswickers.

He spent much of the day promoting a proposed $5-billion deal to sell the major assets of NB Power to Hydro-Quebec. Many party delegates expressed apprehension about the long-term effect on power rates and the security of jobs at the utility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Laliberte's space trip paid off, study says

More press coverage than Afghan war: Firm

Canada's first space clown can brag that his recent trip into the cosmos generated at least 23 times more international news coverage this year than this country's mission in Afghanistan.

At least that's according to a calculation done by a media research group hired by Guy Laliberte, the Cirque du soleil founder who recently became the country's first space tourist.

The Quebec billionaire hired Montreal-based Influence Communication to look at radio, TV, newspaper and Internet coverage from 71 countries of his cosmic voyage.

The firm has released analysis that it would have cost $592,425,679 to buy that much advertising space for Laliberte and his environmental foundation.

The Cirque founder originally shelled out $35 million US for his extraterrestrial flight, suggesting a rather nifty return on investment of more than 1,500 per cent.

Laliberte blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Sept. 30, and spent 11 days travelling or aboard the International Space station.

Jean Lambert, a senior analyst at Influence, says his firm began its tracking on June 4, the day Laliberte held a news conference to officially announce his trip.

Through mid-October, it counted approximately 41,000 reports about Laliberte and his One Drop environmental foundation, which raises awareness about protecting water.

By way of comparison, Canada's mission in Afghanistan — the most significant and gruelling international undertaking by this country since the Korean War — showed up in 1,812 news items over the entire year, from January to mid-October. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mall Santas taking H1N1 precautions

Flu Outbreak

HEALTH Santa has a message for parents bringing their children to visit him at the mall this holiday season: Ho-Ho-Hold your little ones at home if they've got swine flu.

And with fears of H1N1 sweeping the country, shopping centres everywhere are taking precautions to avoid spreading the virus.

Santa and his helpers will be ready to greet all the little boys and girls with hand-sanitizer and wipes, while the jolly old elf will be packing extra pairs of gloves.

But public health officials say there is no need to jingle the alarm bells — sitting your tots on Santa's knee is no more risky than sending them to school or daycare.

"We don't deal with this a lot differently than we ever have before," said Jennifer Andrews, who runs the the internationally known Santa School in Calgary.

As they train dozens of Santas this year, the school is reminding their legions about the importance of good hygiene.

That includes, among other things, reminding trainees to wash their beards daily.

"Our Santas know that when you put in the proper measures — in that everybody's being vigilant about washing hands and keeping clean in the process — there's no reason to be scared about it at all," Andrews said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

PARAMEDICS The B.C. Ambulance Service says over 50 paramedics booked off their scheduled shifts just before they were to start work Saturday during an escalating labour dispute. Spokeswoman Chris Harbord says that left a total of 23 ambulances out of service in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and the Sea-to-Sky corridor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Stephenson, that's Sir William Stephenson

The Winnipeg-born spymaster who some say was the inspiration for the James Bond character is being honoured by his home town. Sir William Stephenson, who headed a British counter-intelligence unit during the Second World War, will now have a street named after him in downtown Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Injured moose first victim of border guard

SIDEARM Canada's newly armed border guards have claimed their first victim: A hapless moose.

The creature was felled by the duty sidearm of a border officer in late August, newly disclosed documents show.

The incident occurred about 25 km west of Creston, B.C., as an intelligence officer with the Canada Border Services Agency was driving on official business to Nelson, B.C.

The officer was behind an RCMP vehicle when both drivers spotted a badly injured moose on Hwy 3.

The constable and officer used their guns to bring the animal down and put it out of its misery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

STRESS A new study from Memorial University in N.L. suggests post-traumatic stress disorder is being over-diagnosed in Canada and the western world — a potentially costly situation that could lead to skyrocketing disability claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leaders at odds on climate: PM

Harper says countries 'long way from binding, legal treaty'

Global climate change negotiators are bogged down in minutiae and need to step back and look at the big picture, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

His comments came as leaders of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit — who represent almost two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions — officially put a bullet in any hopes for an international breakthrough at next month's UN climate conference in Denmark.

Harper was just one of several leaders who emerged from a Sunday breakfast meeting dedicated to the climate issue to say no deal will be reached in Copenhagen.

The prime minister said there was "a pretty strong consensus at the meeting yesterday that countries of the world remain a long way from a binding, legal treaty on climate change."

Harper noted that there are some 3,000 "bracketed pieces of text" in the Copenhagen working document — diplomatic-speak for areas that need further negotiation.

"I don't think that can be attributed to any one country," he said.

"There obviously are significant areas of disagreement."

Climate was not expected to dominate this summit on the 20th anniversary of APEC's founding, but as the last major summit before the United Nations convenes in December the issue infused discussions on global economy and trade.

The chair of the UN climate conference, Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen, flew to Singapore to salvage what he could, pitching APEC leaders on the notion of a "politically binding" deal that could be fleshed out later with legal language at another conference next year in Mexico.

Even that watered down objective could only muster a "fair consensus" among APEC leaders, according to Harper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper makes his way yesterday to the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-Operation Summit in Singapore. Harper later headed to India for a three-day visit.

Harper in India for 3-day visit

MUMBAI Prime Minister Stephen Harper has arrived in Mumbai at the start of a three-day visit to India.

After spending just 36 hours at the APEC summit in Singapore, the prime minister plans an extensive tour. In addition to Mumbai, the agenda also lists stops in New Delhi and Amritsar.

The first day is packed, starting with a round table with Indian investors in Canada.

That's followed by a tour of Chabad House, the Jewish centre that was the site of a hostage-taking and terror attack a year ago.

Sandwiched between that and a speech on Canada-India relations is a photo opportunity with Bollywood star Akshay Kumar. Harper and his wife Laureen will also visit with Indo-Canadian contestants in the reality show Dance Premier League.

This is the prime minister's first visit to India since taking office almost four years ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man hospitalized after being mugged for case of beer
Winnipeg police say a man was taken to hospital with stab wounds after being robbed by three assailants who wanted his case of beer. Three men on bicycles accosted the man outside a city hotel just before 1 a.m. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mission at a 'turning point'

The war Brig. Gen. Jonathan Vance found himself fighting was a small one.

Under his command, Canadian troops in Afghanistan reduced their area of operation by more than half.

With his over-stretched forces relieved this summer by a surge in American forces, Vance focused on six villages with a combined population of no more than 5,000 people.

But in those villages, Vance claims to have given momentum to a mission that was fast losing ground to insurgents in the field and critics at home.

"I would say we are at a turning point in the mission," Vance told The Canadian Press in the final days of his 10-month tour.

"We are far more aligned and able to resource the challenges I think in terms of direct support to the Afghan population, it's just gotten better and better as our force-ration has improved."

With Canadian troops now concentrated in Kandahar city and the districts of Dand and Panjwaii, Vance ended the practice of chasing insurgents from village to village before returning to heavily fortified outposts.

Known by some soldiers as "mowing the grass," It proved ineffective at addressing the root causes of the insurgency.

Vance's idea was to leave soldiers in a series of small villages, allowing them to provide security and short-term development projects. Locals were paid for basic tasks, depriving the Taliban of foot soldiers. The hope was to attract nearby villages as well, expanding an "inkblot" of stability friendly to Canadians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 10

JONATHAN MONTPETIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Brig. Gen. Jonathan Vance talks to media in Kandahar, Afghanistan yesterday. With his over-stretched forces relieved this summer by a surge in American forces, Vance focused on six villages with a combined population of no more than 5,000 people.

Olympics burden, blessing for mayor of Vancouver

POLITICS Gang warfare. Freak snowfalls. The start of the H1N1 pandemic.

The first six months of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Roberston's mandate brought multiple crises.

While all those issues would be hard to handle at the best of times, Roberston has faced them with the added pressure of the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Gregor Robertson

With the world watching, the host city's happenings have suddenly become international incidents.

But Robertson said the Games are also an asset that are providing a boost to his priorities.

"The Olympics have given us a clear deadline and pressure points in our conversations with the province and federal governments," he said in an interview around his first year in office.

"Provincial and federal governments have longer timelines and having a clear date to demonstrate progress and deliver on needed resources was useful and it still is. We're not done yet."

When elected, Roberston set an ambitious goal to end homelessness by 2015.

The provincial budget on housing has tripled since 2001, two years before the Games were awarded to Vancouver.

But housing advocates say over 1,400 beds have vanished since the city won the Games and rumours persist that Vancouver's homeless will be rounded up or jailed during the Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court dismisses ski jumpers' appeal for inclusion in Games

VANCOUVER Faith that Canada's charter would trump the Olympic charter was shattered Friday for a group of female ski jumpers fighting to be included in the 2010 Games.

Faces graced with hopeful smiles during two days of hearings crumpled into tears when a three-judge panel of the B.C. Court of Appeal unanimously dismissed their case Friday.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The women were appealing a ruling that allowed Games organizers to only hold a men's ski jumping competition — something the women say violated their charter rights. They had asked the courts for a declaration that VANOC must comply with the charter, meaning there either had to be events for both genders or none at all.

Vancouver organizers argued that because the decision was made by the International Olympic Committee under the terms of its own charter, Canada's charter doesn't apply.

"I thought they would go the other way, for sure," said reigning world champion ski jumper Lindsay Van, of Utah, as she wiped away tears. "I thought we had a very good argument that was very much set and it didn't seem it would go the other direction." THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I thought they would go the other way, for sure."
Lindsay Van

Portrait gallery panel miffed: Report

FEDERAL Members of a blue-ribbon panel created to find a home for the Portrait Gallery of Canada felt handcuffed because the federal government forbade them from examining key cost and tourism issues, says a newly released report.

The five-member panel was also misinformed at its crucial selection meeting that all five of the private-sector bids it was evaluating fully complied with federal rules — learning only months later that two did not.

The turmoil may help explain why the highly politicized search for a private-sector home for the portrait collection ended in a shambles a year ago, with no winning bid and the government abandoning the idea. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still in storage
- The collection currently languishes in a Gatineau, Que., storage facility.

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Arms reduction treaty coming: Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday the United States and Russia would have a replacement treaty on reducing nuclear arms ready for approval by year's end, an announcement designed as an upbeat ending to a summit with Asia-Pacific leaders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Iran's first lady gives speech on hunger

Iran's first lady has made a rare public appearance and even more rare, a speech, at a Rome forum on the eve of a UN summit to fight hunger. The wife of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad almost never appears in public with her husband and is believed never to have addressed a public gathering. Azam al-Sadat Farahi, left, came to a forum of wives of heads of state yesterday. The summit on strategy to fight world hunger begins today at the Rome headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allied forces push into hostile valley

AFGHANISTAN Hundreds of French and Afghan troops yesterday pushed into a hostile valley in eastern Afghanistan where militants launch quick attacks, then disappear into hillside villages. The mission: Secure the area for a planned bypass road around Kabul to move supplies from neighbouring Pakistan. About 700 French troops, joined by 100 Afghan soldiers, moved into the Tagab valley before dawn with more than 100 armoured vehicles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tweeps are welcome

Twitterers given rare access to shuttle launch

Fingers will be flying when space shuttle Atlantis blasts off today: About 100 of NASA's geekiest fans will be on hand, pecking away at iPhones, BlackBerrys, laptops and other Twittering gadgets.

They plan to let loose with electronic messages — provided they aren't so swept away by the afternoon liftoff that they fall uncharacteristically silent for a moment or two.

The tweeps, as they're called, represent 21 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, as well as five countries.

NASA estimates the 100 have more than 150,000 Twitter followers. It's a dream outreach program for a space agency looking to drum up support.

"I'll be uploading stuff as it happens," promised Steve Wake, 38, a computer programmer who flew in from Denver. "On launch day, who knows? I may be too excited about everything else to even think about doing that stuff. When it's over with, I'm sure I will."

For the first time ever, NASA last month invited its Twitter followers to sign up online for the chance to see a space shuttle launch up close.

The 100 slots — and 50 backup positions — filled in less than 20 minutes on Oct. 16.

The two-day gathering got underway yesterday at Kennedy Space Center with talks by NASA officials, including the first Twittering astronaut, Michael Massimino, aka Astro-Mike. The discussions were streamed live on the Internet, and the "tweetup" gathering was near the top of Twitter's trending topics yesterday morning.

Astronauts have been tweeting from Earth and orbit since spring. While NASA already has held a few of the tweetups — so-called meet ups of people who use Twitter — it's the first for Kennedy Space Center, a high-security area requiring government clearance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweets from space

- Follow astronaut Robert Satcher Jr. as he blasts off into orbit today at twitter.com/ZeroG_MD. For reports from the ground, follow Steve Wake at twitter.com/stevewake

Colorado **Fall wonderland?**

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Julie Siegler and her dog Basil take their morning walk as an autumn storm drops snow in Denver yesterday.

News in brief

PAKISTAN Militants staged a pair of attacks against anti-Taliban figures in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing one of the men as part of an escalating campaign to weaken the country's resolve to fight Islamic extremism. A group of militants opened fire on the house of an elder, Malik Sher Zaman, in the Bajur tribal region, killing him several months after he signed an agreement with the government to battle the Taliban. The militants blew up part of his house after the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congratulations to all the amazing MIA Winners + Nominees

A CLEAN NORTH AMERICAN SWEEP

A special Metro mention to Starcom MediaVest Group on winning at the 10th Annual Media Innovation Awards 2009 (MIA) with the Procter & Gamble, Swiffer Condo Program campaign – also winner at the Creative Media Awards 2009 in New York on September 23, 2009.

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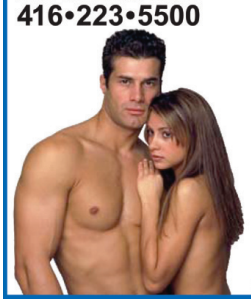
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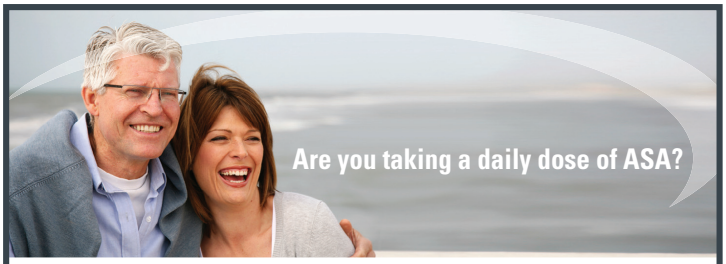

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French bill aims to outlaw corporal punishment
A French lawmaker says she has proposed a bill to ban corporal punishment, including spanking of children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain and Australia to apologize to child migrants

As many as 150,000 poor British children were shipped off to various colonies over three and a half centuries, often taken from struggling families under programs intended to provide them with a new start — and the British Empire with a supply of workers.

Forty years after the program stopped, Britain and Australia are saying sorry to the child migrants, who were promised a better life only to suffer abuse and neglect thousands of miles from home. The U.K. government said yesterday that Prime Minister Gordon Brown would apologize for child migrant programs that sent boys and girls as young as three to Canada, Australia and other former colonies. Many ended up in institutions where they were physically and sexually abused, or were sent to work as farm labourers.

A 1950 photo of twins Brian, left, and Kevin Sullivan from London, preparing to leave Britain for Auckland, New Zealand.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will offer his own apology today to the child migrants, as well as to the "forgotten Australians," children who suffered in state care during the last century.

Sandra Anker, who was six when she was sent to Australia in 1950, said the British government has "a lot to answer for."

"We've suffered all our lives," she told the BBC. "For the government of England to say sorry to us, it makes it right — even if it's late, it's better than not at all."

Authorities believed they were acting in the children's best interests, but the migration also was intended to stop them from being a burden on the British state while supplying the receiving countries with potential workers. A 1998 British inquiry noted that "a further motive was racist: the importation of 'good white stock' was seen as a desirable policy objective in the British Colonies."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IRAQ Iraq's Sunni Arab vice-president has threatened to veto the country's election law unless changes are made giving Iraqis living abroad more guaranteed seats in parliament, throwing the January vote into question. Tareq al-Hashimi gave parliament until tomorrow to amend the election bill and ensure greater representation for voters outside of Iraq, most of whom are Sunni Arabs like al-Hashimi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Location, Location, Location?
Where You Live Can Impact Your Car Insurance Rate

How Much Is Your Postal Code Costing You?

We've all heard that when it comes to real estate, the biggest driver of your success is location. Can the same be said for getting the lowest car insurance rate? The answer is – sort of.

Insurance companies do use a wide variety of risk factors when setting premiums, and where you live is one of them. The question each insurance company tries to answer is "how likely is it a policyholder living in [insert location here] will make a claim and how much will that claim cost to pay out if there is a loss?" If you live in an area that a given insurance company knows to have a high claims rate, all things being equal, you can expect to pay more than someone living in an area with a lower claims rate.

Should I Consider Moving To Get A Better Rate?

Probably not. If you are like most people, picking up and moving to another neighbourhood in hopes of saving money on your car insurance is likely not an option. And the truth is, even if you did move, there's no guarantee you'd get a lower rate, since each insurance company sets its rates independently and can change them up to 4 times per year according to a wide variety of factors of which your location is only one.

What's The REAL Secret To Lowering Your Rate?

The simplest and easiest thing you can do to lower your rate right now is to SHOP AROUND. Why? Because the rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

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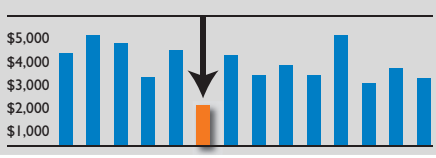

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Comment

Wanted: User solutions

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Some may feel that last Friday's impromptu "TTC Riders' Strike" failed since so few joined the boycott — apparently trains and buses were as crowded as ever. And yet the protest attracted a lot of media attention, despite being organized quickly by individual customers upset by the threat of rising fares.

Other displeased riders have likely been contacting Toronto city councillors.

At tomorrow's transit commission meeting riders are likely to speak against a price increase, but can they propose constructive alternatives? The TTC budget is very complex, especially as it is closely tied to the financial health of city hall and Queen's Park.

"Given the opportunity, I bet riders can come up with balanced suggestions on how to streamline the system."

The website spacing.ca reports chair Adam Giambrone will move a Metropass price rise of 11 per cent instead of the proposed 15. Expecting a complete fare freeze is unrealistic and yet we have every right to ask commissioners what they have done to contain costs.

As for those upset riders who want TTC budget cuts, do your homework first. Look up news stories or see well-researched blogs like stevemunro.ca to develop credible proposals. It might help if the public were involved in an ongoing debate about transit efficiency throughout the year, instead of waiting until fare hikes are nigh.

Given the opportunity, I bet riders can come up with balanced suggestions on how to streamline the system. Money is going to be tight for a while, so let's talk about how we are going to pay for a good quality transit system that can weather economic storms.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

It's crunch time: Aiming for an A in life

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Buddhist wisdom says, "All human beings want the same thing, we are just going about it in different ways."

This is true. So long as what every human being wants is to make it through the next three weeks without losing their minds, drinking enough caffeine to wake a rock and alienating everyone they love.

Otherwise, it's only me that wants that.

As regular readers know, I'm presently enrolled as a full time university student.

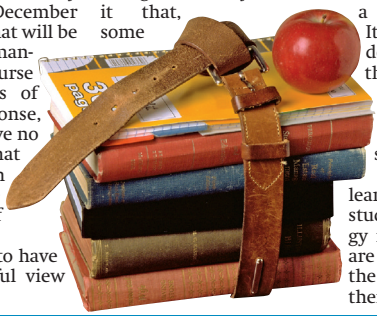
And, for students, the next three weeks are Crunch Time.

Anyone who has ever been in school will remember that Crunch Time refers to "the period during which you realize your life has gone right down the pooper because suddenly, the fact that school libraries are open 24 hours a day seems like a really good thing."

If asked to define my life at this moment I'd say, "Life is what will begin again after I hand in my last paper on December 18." Or, "life is what will be worth living if I manage to pass my course on Hermeneutics of Pauline Response, even though I have no idea what that means." Or, "I am a hamster on the essay wheel of life."

Really, I ought to have a more thoughtful view of existence.

After all, I've spent the last eight years studying theology. Theology loosely defined means, "The study of the thing we call God, though not everyone calls it that, some people call it 'a nice walk on a sunny day' and anyway we can't really know anything about it, but hey, why not pony up several thousands of dollars to get a degree in it anyway?"



It's not insane to get a degree in something that's entirely incomprehensible. Think of students taking biophysics or women's studies.

I think what I've learned through years of studying Christian theology is this: The Buddhists are right. We do all want the same things. And neither of them, really, are an A in Biblical history or a pass in choir. What we want is to feel loved and valued. And maybe, during the Crunch Times of life, that has to start with ourselves.

So, I'm putting down my essays for an hour. I'm treating myself to a walk in the miraculous November sunshine.

Will it improve my school marks? Probably not. But I'm aiming for something higher. I'm going for an A in life.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

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Finnair pilots ready to park their planes
Some 800 Finnair pilots will begin a strike today, grounding all scheduled international and domestic flights of the Finnish national carrier, the airline said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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US 94.69¢ (Friday's close)	US $4.37 (Friday's close)	US $76.94 (Friday's close)	11,360.76 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Permit for Canadian mine revoked

GOLD Mexico revoked the environmental authorization Friday for a Canadian-owned open-pit gold mine that critics say threatens one of the most historic sites in the north-central state of San Luis Potosi.

The Environment Department said that it has pulled the permit for Minera San Xavier, a property of Vancouver-based New Gold Inc., in accordance with a court ruling in October. Opponents welcomed the decision, saying local watersheds were becoming threatened.

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Markets watch U.S. retail sales

The latest reading on consumer spending activity in the United States will likely set the tone for trading on stock markets this week.

U.S. retail sales for October will be released today and economists expect to see a rise of 0.9 per cent following a drop of 1.5 per cent during September.

"It looks like that's going to be the big one," said Colin Cieszynski, market analyst at CMC Markets Canada.

Stock markets ended last week higher for a second consecutive week, largely on investor relief from indications that U.S. interest rates will stay low for an extended period. Markets were also lifted by last weekend's G20 meeting where leaders made it clear that government stimulus measures will not disappear any time soon.

But critical to that growth on markets has been the hope that the end of recession will be followed by a strong recovery.

While retail sales are important in any economy, they're particularly important in the United States where consumer spending accounts for about 70 per cent of the economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clothing retailer Weak sales

RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A shopper leaves an Abercrombie & Fitch store in Portland, Ore. The preppy clothing seller's third-quarter profit fell 39 per cent to $38.8 million as sales continued to be weak as it lost market share to lower-priced competitors such as Aeropostale. Abercrombie & Fitch is planning to close its higher-priced Reuhl line by the end of the year, the company said Friday.

Magma reports $2.7M loss in fiscal first quarter

ENERGY Magma Energy Corp., a Vancouver-based geothermal energy producer, reports it lost nearly $2.7 million US or one cent a share in the fiscal first quarter ended Sept. 30. That compared with a loss of $829,860 or one cent for the same year earlier period.

Revenues from energy sales were just over $1 million in the quarter, the first three-month period of the energy producer's 2010 fiscal year, the company reported. Magma generated no operating revenue for the same period a year earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

COMMUNICATIONS Vivendi SA is set to take control of Brazilian telecommunications operator GVT SA after trumping a rival offer from Spain's Telefonica SA.

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GM plans to move European headquarters
General Motors Co. wants to move its European headquarters to Germany from Switzerland before the end of the year, an Opel spokesman said Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No resolution in sight

Innu leader says deal on hydro project faces delays

A multimillion-dollar deal to win aboriginal support critical to the development of Labrador's Lower Churchill hydro megaproject is beset by delays, an Innu Nation leader says.

Days after Premier Danny Williams said the agreement was near completion, deputy grand chief Peter Penashue said legal wrangling has slowed ratification of the Tsash Petapen or New Dawn Agreement.

The contentious offer has split this hard-scrabble Innu community near Happy Valley-Goose Bay and has left Penashue's own family at odds as his mother passionately campaigns against the proposal.

And there's no resolution in sight. The package that Innu leaders and the provincial government announced as a near-done deal on Sept. 26, 2008, still needs approval from Ottawa, Penashue said.

"At one point we were looking at splitting the agreement" into provincial and federal areas of jurisdiction, he said.

A ratification vote for the Innu community of about 2,500 people was initially slated for early in 2009. That ambitious goal was missed, and the vote has been repeatedly put off.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The offer

- New Dawn offers the Innu hunting rights within 33,700 square km of land, plus compensation of $2 million a year for flooding caused when waterways along the upper Churchill River were diverted 40 years ago.

Boeing First 747-8 freighter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/BOEING AIRCRAFT

Boeing workers tow the first 747-8 freighter out of the factory in Everett, Wash., on Thursday. Boeing last month said it would record a $1 billion US charge because of delays in producing the plane, blaming slow sales and late design changes. It has said it expects the first flight of the plane by early next year and first delivery is expected in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Google makes concessions on digital book deal

COPYRIGHT Internet search leader Google will ease its control over millions of copyright-protected books earmarked for its digital library if a court approves a revised lawsuit settlement that addresses objections of antitrust regulators.

The offer comes two months after the U.S. Justice Department balked at Google's original agreement with authors and publishers, warning the arrangement could do more harm than good in the emerging market for electronic books.

Google Inc. is hoping to keep the deal alive with a series of new provisions. Among other things, the modified agreement provides more flexibility to offer discounts on electronic books and promises to make it easier for others to resell access to a digital index of books covered in the settlement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

SAAB About 37 per cent of U.S. Saab dealers — 81 out of 218 — will close as part of General Motors Corp.'s planned sale of the ailing Swedish car brand to Koenigsegg Group AB, a GM spokeswoman says.

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Indonesia booting out Greenpeace activists

Indonesian authorities said on the weekend they would deport 11 foreign Greenpeace activists for joining a protest against forest destruction and violating their tourist visas. The activists sought to draw attention to the destruction of peatland forests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Green

Eco-footwear

Wyclef Jean, left, is teaming with Timberland on the development of an eco-conscious footwear collection under the Earthkeepers line. The footwear is made from recycled and organic materials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ad-ded value

BANNERS Today's fast paced consumer economy often leaves little or no time to think about the environment, says Javier Serrano

"I found this curious connection between marketing and pollution, and decided to bank on it," adds the founder of Hong Kong-based accessories line Eco Couture.

Serrano, who grew up and trained as a weaver and sculptor in Madrid, Spain, has found a way to reuse advertising banners — which can take 75 years to disintegrate — and turn them into unique wallets and bags.

"So many luxurious brands use advertising billboards in Hong Kong. It's an in-and-out process; they are up for a couple of days, maybe even overnight and then are dumped across landfills in China."

Eco Couture uses these ad banners to create its accessory range. The banners are generally made from vinyl, a thick, durable and waterproof material. No other material is added to the original and waste is minimal, remaining bits and pieces are turned into zipper pullers or labels.

They're certainly no "bag for life" or Chanel clutch, but certainly resistant … and much better off slung on someone's shoulder than in a landfill.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

On the web

- To see more of Javier Serrano's Eco Couture creations, visit ecocouture.hk

Slam dunk junk

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Swapped your clunky old mobile for an iPhone? Your boxy PC for a notebook? Don't throw them out — drop them off on junk artist Gabriel Dishaw's doorstep.

"I take the items people no longer have use for and I carefully disassemble these items and then reassemble them using metal wire creating my junk art," says the 29-year-old artist from Carmel, Ind., who makes sculptures from discarded materials.

Gabriel Dishaw

"I begin each sculpture with an idea of how can I take these found pieces of useless metal and insignificant objects and create something that everyone can understand and relate to. I find myself looking at ordinary mechanical items to see how I could turn that something, into something else not originally intended for that use," he said.

To see more of Gabriel Dishaw's junk art creations, visit gabriel dishaw.com

"I've been doing junk art since the ninth grade. My mom's an artist so I get it from her. My dad on the other hand is very mechanical and more technical."

The combination of these two parental skills led to him taking up this project. "That's where it all started although since then, my work has become more refined," he says.

A self-confessed sneaker fan, Dishaw owns 250 pairs — Nike's are his favourite. His day job as a regional trainee for U.S. footwear company Finish Line keeps him up to date with the latest foot trends.

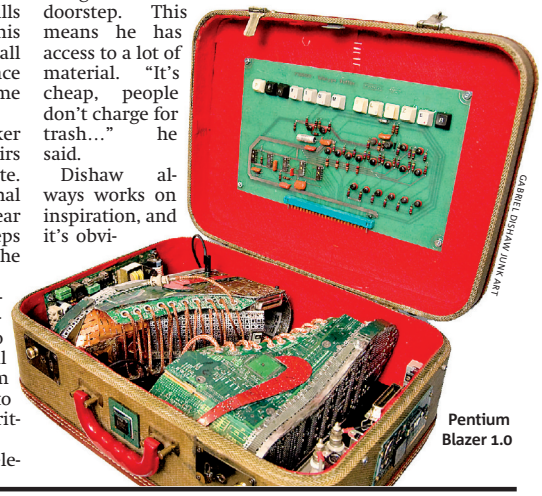
Dishaw's Junk Art includes scores of sculptures, from robots to clothing, made from all sorts of scrap — from glass, metal and wood to computers and typewriters.

And there is an eco-element in his work. He said: "I'm concerned about conservation. I grew up in a rural farm area, so I've always been conscientious about the environment. Americans throw away everything. They will throw a phone away after one year. It's such a waste."

People who are aware of his work stop by to drop things off on his doorstep. This means he has access to a lot of material. "It's cheap, people don't charge for trash…" he said.

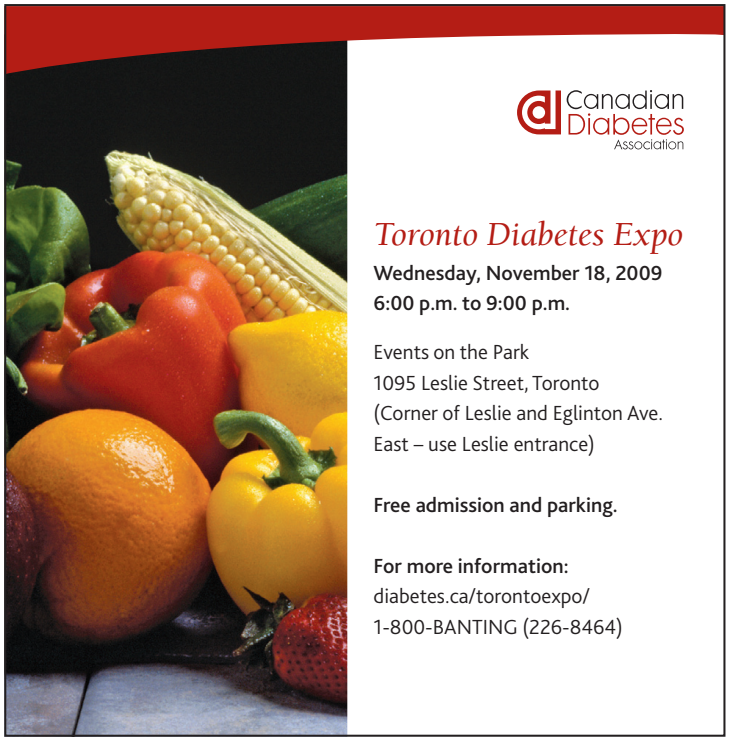
Dishaw always works on inspiration, and it's obvious his latest work — the Pentium Blazer 1.0, a bizarre-looking sneaker that must rank as one of the world's most uncomfortable, is based on his favourite high top.

He said "I used an old typewriter which was great as when you take them apart, they are so intricate and have a lot of identical components. This way you can easily make a right side, left side and so on. "You could actually put them on — it would be painful, but they're a size 9.5."



GABRIEL DISHAW JUNK ART

Pentium Blazer 1.0



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Toronto Diabetes Expo

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Fuel Consumption	City
2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid	61 mpg - 4.6 L/100km
Toyota Camry Hybrid	50 mpg - 5.7 L/100km
Nissan Altima Hybrid	50 mpg - 5.7 L/100km

‡

Fusion Hybrid 52 mpg-5.4 L/100km (Hwy)

Driving Distance	Tank Size	Distance on One Tank
2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid	63 L	1369 km
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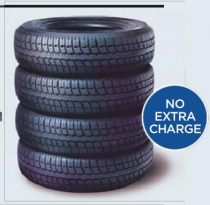

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Toyota RAV4	30 mpg - 9.4 L/100km
Chevrolet Equinox	31 mpg - 9.2 L/100km

‡

Escape Hybrid 43 mpg-6.5 L/100km (Hwy)

Driving Range	City
2010 Ford Escape Hybrid	983 km
Honda CRV	563 km
Toyota RAV4	638 km
Chevrolet Equinox	773 km

‡

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Longer toes may increase speed

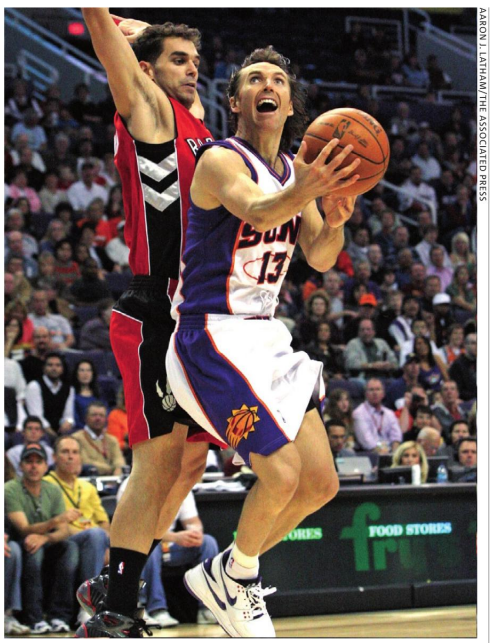
After studying the feet of 12 sprinters and 12 non-sprinters, a researcher at British Columbia's Simon Fraser University says longer toes, as well as unique ankle structure, may give sprinters a leg up on other runners. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Ames takes final '09 event

Stephen Ames, left, ended the PGA Tour season in style, taking the Children's Miracle Network Classic in a three-man playoff. The Calgary golfer outlasted Justin Leonard and George McNeill, winning with a par on the second playoff hole. It was the fourth career PGA Tour victory for Ames, who also won this event back in 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA



AARON J. LATHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phoenix's Steve Nash, right, drives past Toronto's Jose Calderon in the first half last night as the Suns hosted the Raptors.

Suns squeak by Raps in Phoenix

Amare Stoudemire followed one of the worst games of his career with his best game of the season, scoring 30 points to lead Phoenix to a 101-100 victory over Toronto last night, the Suns' 11th straight win over the Raptors.

The Suns improved to an NBA-best 9-2, winning their 13th in a row at home.

Steve Nash had 23 points and nine assists, and Channing Frye added 20, hitting six three-pointers. Chris Bosh led the Raptors with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points, and Andrea Bargnani had 17.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Games heat is on

NHL's Olympic hopefuls feeling pressure already

If this weren't an Olympic year, and the subject weren't hockey and the pressures for Canadian players to earn a spot on Team Canada, Jarome Iginla would sound downright paranoid.

"Maybe they're not watching that much tonight, but they have tape," said Iginla.

But of course it is the animated subject of representing Canada in Canada at the Winter Olympics, and players can't help but feel under the microscope. And even if they don't want to think about it, sometimes they just can't help themselves.

"It's exciting to think about the possibility and that it's coming very quickly," says the captain of the Calgary Flames, whose two goals sunk the Maple Leafs on Saturday night. "Guys go to dinner, we talk about certain teams, and who we think might make it from different teams."

Team Canada GM Steve Yzerman and his braintrust are meeting regularly, attending games, reviewing tape while continually updating who should be — and shouldn't be — on the roster when it's announced Dec. 31. Iginla says that always lurks at the back of players' minds.

"I know everybody has a different team they would pick," said Iginla.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Lions edge Ticats in OT

FOOTBALL Casey Printers hit Ian Smart on an eight-yard TD pass to earn the B.C. Lions a dramatic 34-27 overtime win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the CFL's East semifinal yesterday.

Printers found Smart on the TD strike on B.C.'s second play in the extra session. Hamilton failed to score on its possession, thus securing the Lions the victory.

Calgary 24 Edmonton 21 — The Stampeders advanced to the CFL's West Division semifinal with a win over the Eskimos yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-New Jersey	18	14	4	0	28
d-Washington	20	12	4	4	28
d-Buffalo	17	12	4	1	25
Pittsburgh	20	13	7	0	26
NY Rangers	20	11	8	1	23
Philadelphia	16	10	5	1	21
Atlanta	17	10	6	1	21
NY Islanders	20	7	6	7	21
—					
Tampa Bay	17	7	4	6	20
Boston	19	8	7	4	20
Ottawa	17	8	6	3	19
Montreal	20	9	11	0	18
Florida	17	7	9	1	15
TORONTO	**18**	**3**	**10**	**5**	**11**
Carolina	19	3	12	4	10

YESTERDAY

Atlanta 3 Edmonton 2
Carolina 5 Minnesota 4 (SO)
San Jose at Chicago

TODAY

N.Y. Islanders at Boston
New Jersey at Philadelphia
Edmonton at Columbus
Anaheim at Pittsburgh
Los Angeles at Florida
Tampa Bay at Phoenix

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points.

NFL

AFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
New England	6	2	0	.750
Miami	4	5	0	.444
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Indianapolis	8	0	0	1.000
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556
Houston	5	4	0	.556
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500
Cleveland	1	7	0	.125

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	6	3	0	.667
San Diego	6	3	0	.667
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222
Oakland	2	7	0	.222

NFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
Dallas	6	3	0	.667
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556
Washington	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
New Orleans	9	0	0	1.000
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556
Carolina	4	5	0	.444
Tampa Bay	1	8	0	.111

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	8	1	0	.889
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556
Chicago	4	5	0	.444
Detroit	1	8	0	.111

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	6	3	0	.667
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444
Seattle	3	6	0	.333
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111

YESTERDAY

Arizona 31 Seattle 20
Carolina 28 Atlanta 19
Cincinnati 18 Pittsburgh 12
Green Bay 17 Dallas 7
Jacksonville 24 N.Y. Jets 22
Kansas City 16 Oakland 10
Miami 25 Tampa Bay 23
Minnesota 27 Detroit 10
New Orleans 28 St. Louis 23
San Diego 31 Philadelphia 23
Tennessee 41 Buffalo 17
Washington 27 Denver 17
New England at Indianapolis

TODAY

Baltimore at Cleveland

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	-
TORONTO	**5**	**4**	**.556**	**2**
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3.5
New York	1	9	.100	6.5
New Jersey	0	10	.000	7.5

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	8	2	.800	-
Miami	7	2	.778	.5
Orlando	7	3	.700	1
Charlotte	3	6	.333	4.5
Washington	2	7	.222	5.5

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	5	2	.714	.5
Cleveland	7	3	.700	-
Indiana	4	3	.571	1.5
Chicago	5	4	.556	1.5
Detroit	5	4	.556	1.5

YESTERDAY

TORONTO at Phoenix
Dallas at Detroit
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City
Houston at L.A. Lakers

TODAY

Charlotte at Orlando
Portland at Atlanta
Dallas at Milwaukee

Japan thrashes Canada
Japan scored six tries yesterday en route to a 46-8 thrashing of Canada in the first game of a two-match rugby series. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keeping talent home

CIS scholarships could improve Canadian soccer

It'sCalledFootball

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

Sometimes wisdom comes from the strangest of places. In this instance, the wisdom came from a hockey mom watching the CIS women's soccer national championships.

Wearing her hockey-mom badge proudly, she screeched every time her daughter was touched and hurled insults at the referees when she saw missed calls.

But when she wasn't cursing at the teenaged refs, her thoughts on why CIS soccer didn't measure up to NCAA standards were pretty succinct.

"How can the CIS compete when even the smallest NCAA teams are offering up full-ride scholarships?"

"They ask these kids to play and go to school and work and won't offer them more than small, basic scholarships. It's not just soccer, it's every sport"

While I'm not inclined to listen to the shrieking class very often, this mom did have a point.

Is it not time that Canadian universities and colleges took another look at what they are asking of their student athletes?

These kids go to school and then work and then to their second job, varsity athletics.

Of the players I met and spoke to this weekend, many of them told me of 70-hour work weeks when they factored in all three.

And while football players may be able to find jobs at their schools paying $50,000 a year to re-stock vending machines or swipe library cards, the same cannot be said for soccer.

There is good, young talent in the CIS soccer ranks; good enough to one day be part of the men's and women's national team programs.

"There is good, young talent in the CIS soccer ranks."

But some of the best talent in Canada is still found in high schools — players who haven't been plucked by European clubs or American schools.

In the last half year, some players raised and trained in Canada have turned tail and declared intentions to play internationally for other countries. The present debate in soccer circles has returned to how we can retain the talent that we grow.

Universities have a role to play in that. When the next crop of Canadian talent graduates from high school, if they have a legitimate financial incentive to stay and continue on here, that's all the more reason, years down the road, for them to stay and play here.

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El Salvador. ..... 9.9 ¢	Ghana.....9.9 ¢	Sri Lanka.....11.9 ¢
Jamcaica..... 8.9 ¢	Greece.....2.9	Trinidad..... 4.9 ¢
Jordan.....3.9 ¢	Guatemala.... 10.9 ¢	U.A.E.....16.9 ¢
Kenya...from..... .6.9 ¢	Guyana.....27.9 ¢	
	Honduras.....15.9 ¢	

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Alberta rethinks math

Nexy year, Alberta's education department will change the way math is delivered to high school students. Students will choose between a course geared toward college or university, a course for the workforce or trades, or a basic math program that includes skills such as chequebook balancing. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Motherly support

Nearly three-quarters of women in American households planning for college say it's very important for their children to obtain a college degree, a new survey from Keeping College Within Reach has found. Over half of women agreed that not paying for college would be "a failure of me as a parent." METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The e-learning revolution

Canadian schools embracing technology

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

A "revolution" in learning is what the Laurier School of Business and Economics is promising from its new partnership with Research In Motion in the latest reach of a decades-old drive to put the "e" in education.

Hugh Munro heads Laurier's MBA program and says bringing BlackBerries into the classroom will take the classroom everywhere.

"If our learning environment mirrors the kind of challenges and opportunities they're going to face in the real world, then it's a good thing."
Laurier's MBA program head, Hugh Monroe

"It's the beginning of a journey for us," he says. "(We're) looking at how we can take advantage of the enabling capabilities of technology and change the way we structure and deliver curriculum … We can bring the outside into the classroom and also make the outside an ongoing classroom."

Halifax's Mount Saint Vincent University is another post-secondary institution that has embraced the idea of e-learning, only they've been mobilizing education for almost 30 years now. It started with TV shows on a local station and added the cutting-edge technology of video tapes mailed to students. Its distance-learning program is now on digital cable and DVDs and half of such courses are fully online.

Whether its with a smartphone or just over the computer, e-learning is here to stay in Canada.

Peggy Watts, head of MSVU's distance learning, says by using programs like Moodle and Elluminate Live, the university can create a virtual classroom that allows students to chat with professors, give presentations in front of the class, watch videos and use programs like Excel, even if they don't have Excel.

"Within the White Board (of Elluminate), an instructor can take control of a student's desktop and show them something on their own desktop," she adds.

Watts says the main users of e-learning at MSVU are in Nova Scotia, but chose the remote approach to give flexibility to their schedules and avoid commuting.

Back at Laurier, students and faculty will use their smartphones for voice, text and email applications as well as video, voice notes and pictures. Faculty will push content to their students' smartphones and will have access to metrics to gauge which content is being used in the one-year pilot involving 100 students.

Munro is confident the "hybrid" model of classroom and e-learning is the way of the future. Business has gone mobile and education should follow, he says. "If our learning environment mirrors the kind of challenges and opportunities they're going to face in the real world, then it's a good thing."

RIM, which is headquartered in Waterloo, is giving students a deal on the BlackBerries and Rogers is providing the connection at a small fraction of the usual cost, Munro adds.

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Workology in **brief**

INTERNATIONAL SATISFACTION

Although almost half of international students studying at Canadian post-secondary institutions admit Canada was not their top choice among study-abroad options, nine out of 10 students would recommend the country as a study destination, according to survey results presented by the Canadian Bureau for International Education at its annual conference this week. The vast majority of students surveyed reported high satisfaction with their choice of school, and praised resources such as libraries and computer facilities. One criticism was that Canadian PSE was too expensive.

U.S. GRAD ENROLMENT STEADY

According to a new study from the U.S.-based Council of Graduate Schools, the number of foreign first-time students at American graduate schools is flat this year, following four consecutive years of growth. Enrolments of graduate students from China continue to surge, and gains from the Middle East and Turkey are much larger than they have been in recent years. Meanwhile, figures from India and South Korea are down. The council's director of research and policy analysis cites competition as one reason some nations are sending fewer grad students to the US. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Several Vancouver-area institutions to extend reading breaks during Olympics
A number of post-secondary schools across B.C.'s Lower Mainland will not be running classes during the course of the 2010 Winter Olympics. METRO NEWS SERVICES

No bones about it, it's a whale of a job

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Few people will ever see a great blue whale, as the largest animal in the world is endangered.

But Michael deRoos has spent every day for the last eighteen months working on the bones of one of these massive creatures.

Last spring, he helped dig the mammal's carcass out of the ground in P.E.I. Now, he's nearing completion of a whale of a task: Reassembling the skeleton for display at the soon-to-be-opened Beaty Biodiversity Museum at the University of British Columbia.

DeRoos, 30, began his work with skeletons by chance in 2000. He was completing his degree in biology at the University of Victoria — he thought he might become a vet — when he took a six-week intensive course at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

For his project for the course, he decided to assemble a skeleton. The centre had a sea otter, so deRoos used the skills he'd learned at his father's general contractor business and put in 12-hour days working with bones.

His professor clearly liked the result. Two years later, she recommended him for a job at the new Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Interpretive Centre.

DeRoos help finish construction on the centre and began working with its large collection of bones. By his second year there, he was tackling a 60-foot fin whale.

In 2005, a professor from UBC asked deRoos to assemble a killer whale. He's been freelancing for the school ever since.

"Each one I've done gets a little better than the last one," says deRoos. He began making his skeletons more active; showing the animal jumping or feeding.

He starts each project by cleaning off the bones. He boils the carcass, then either puts the bones in the ocean in a fishing net or buries them in horse manure. Eight months later, the bones are clean and just need a treatment with bleach or some time in the sun.

In the meantime, he's designing his skeleton. He uses pictures and video images of the live creature to see how it's put together and how it moves.

To rebuild the animal, deRoos creates a steel frame. He affixes bones to the steel by drilling small holes in the bones, or gluing them. He hires a sculptor to recreate any bones that have been lost (it's inevitable) and an artist to paint over any damage he's done to the bones.

Then it's the fun part: Putting it all together, and hearing everyone's comments.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Skeleton articulator Michael deRoos is currently putting together a blue whale skeleton.

The Lowdown

Job title: Skeleton articulator
Salary: As much as $70,000
Education/training: Degree in biology or related science
Best Part of the Job: "Standing back and watching a group of school kids come in and seeing their eyes go wide and say, 'This is so cool, is this a dinosaur?'"
Worst Part of the Job: "Dealing with rotting carcasses. After we dug up the blue whale, I had to burn my clothes they smelled so bad."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

Workology in brief

DECLINE COMING FOR PSE According to a story in the Globe and Mail, starting next year, the population of 18- to 21-year-olds is expected to decline nationwide, with the steepest declines anticipated for Saskatchewan and Atlantic Canada. Academica Group's Ken Steele observes that a lot of post-secondary institutions are looking at not being able to rely on their traditional catchment areas, and need to go outside their region to attract students. Canadian universities are dabbling in all sorts of social networking sites in order to boost their profile. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Its not about the coffee — its about the people

BookReview

It's Not About **The Coffee**

Author: Howard Behar
Publisher: Portfolio
Price: $18.50

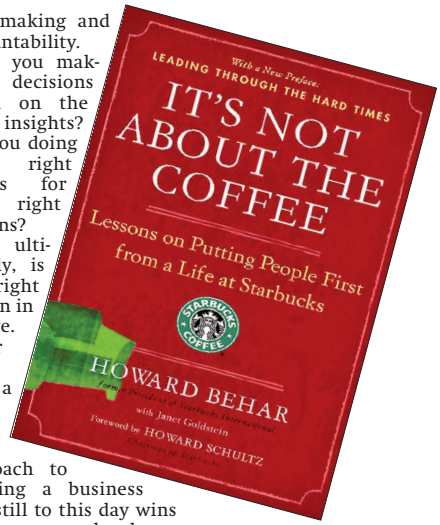
There can be no coffee without people. In the case of Starbucks Coffee, past president Howard Behar, elaborates that when it comes to business its the people who serve your coffee, all the way to the origin of the bean... the growers that make or break you. "If your people are better human beings, they'll be better partners of the company" says Behar.

Behar's book takes a look at the 10 principles that helped shaped Starbucks into the company it is today … but none of these principles are about coffee.

The majority of his principles focus on decision making and accountability.

Are you making decisions based on the best insights? Are you doing the right things for the right reasons? And ultimately, is the right person in charge. Behar presents a very human approach to building a business that still to this day wins the company a loyal customer and employee base. Common sense, but every now and then a refresher on these concepts is in order. People relations 101.

CRAIG LUND
/FOR METRO CANADA



It's Not About The Coffee, by Howard Behar is available on book stores now.

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

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Will H1N1 usher in new era of telecommuting?

When H1N1 came calling, Clare Kumar heard opportunity knocking.

After all, the Toronto-based professional organizer figured, a worldwide pandemic meant scores of employees confined to their homes, desperate for the services of someone who specializes in establishing effective and ergonomic home offices.

Unfortunately for Kumar, it hasn't worked out that way: Canada's employers, it seems, are clinging to the notion that when it comes to a job, actually going to work is Job 1.

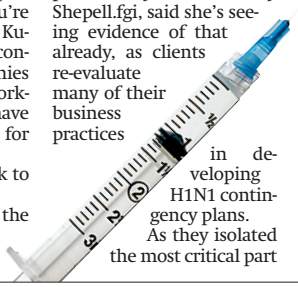
"If your manager gets it and understands the productivity gain, then you're in a good position," said Kumar, whose efforts to convince Canadian companies to take her on as a work-from-home consultant have so far been largely for naught.

"If they don't, it's back to the dark ages."

Still, all is not lost for the home-office revolution, say experts who anticipate the second wave of Canada's H1N1 pandemic to bring with it a fundamental shift in corporate culture when it comes to allowing staff to work from home.

For many, the hope is that the realities of conducting day-to-day business during a pandemic will force managers to rethink their biases and make telework — once considered a viable future vision of the workaday world — a permanent part of corporate life.

Paula Allen, vice-president of organizational solutions and training with Toronto-based health and productivity consultancy Shepell.fgi, said she's seeing evidence of that already, as clients re-evaluate many of their business practices in developing H1N1 contingency plans. As they isolated the most critical part of their day-to-day operations, a growing number of companies are indeed realizing that a physical presence in the office wasn't as vital as they thought, Allen said.

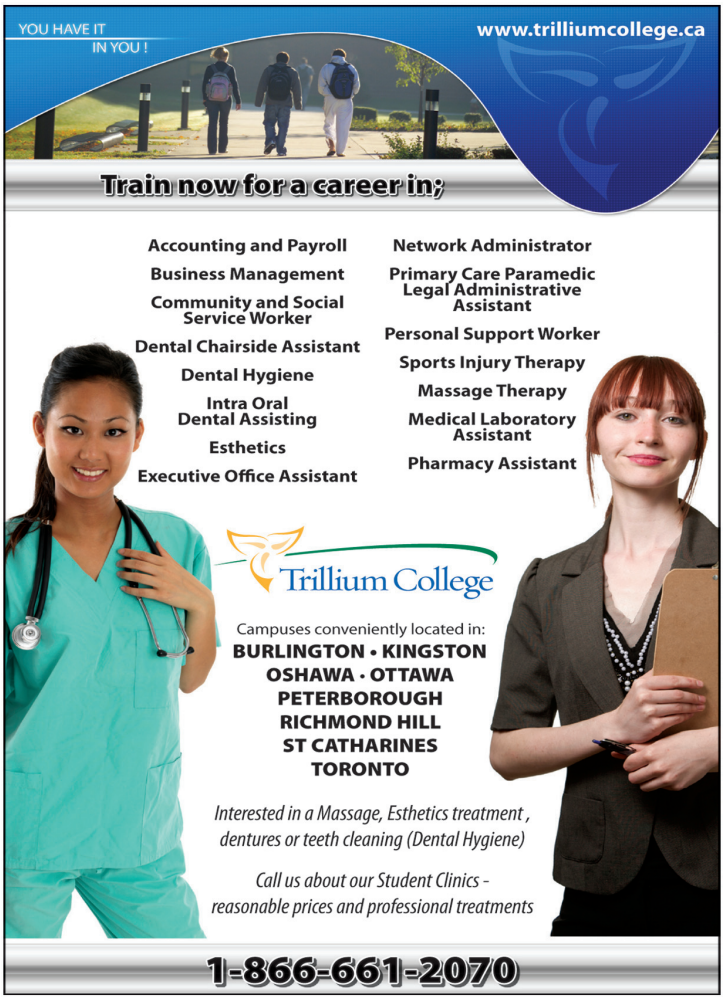


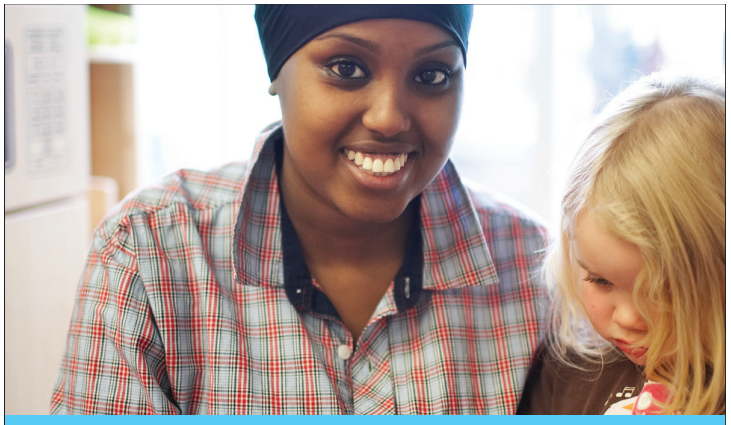
"One of the first and best practices was social distancing, which means giving people the opportunity to work from home," Allen said in a telephone interview. "As a result of actually going through that thinking, people are realizing that there is more opportunity to have people telework than what they realized previously."

Allen said she believes businesses will come to embrace the concept whole-heartedly once they're forced to rely on it. She's confident that working from home won't prove a passing fad that will ebb when pandemic fears fade.

"Once people have a tool, have a skill, have an opportunity," she said, "they use it whether there's a crisis or not."

THE CANADIAN PRESS





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Workology in brief

THE ODDEST REQUESTS YOU EVER DID HEAR... Hiring managers nationwide took some time to bring levity to the workplace in a new CareerBuilder survey. More than 2,900 shared the most memorable requests or recommendations they have received in the office suggestion box. Responses included:

- Request to allow people to change clothes in their cubicles.
- Request to add a tanning bed to the break room.
- Request to put beer in the vending machine.
- Request that jail time be covered under family medical leave.
- Request to institute bikini Fridays.
- Request to only be required to work during daylight hours because employee is scared of the dark.
- Request for a special smoking area for medical marijuana.
- Request that the HR person wear nicer shoes.
- Request for more time off to pursue side business as a clown.
- Request to replace his desk with a futon so employee could lay down and work.
- Request that the lactation room with gliding chair be used for naps, so everyone can use it.
- Request to install a swimming pool for employees to use.
- Request to have the team meeting to be held in Hawaii.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Permanent jobs on the upswing

An encouraging sign for overall employment, utilization of staffing firms for permanent placements is also expected to increase in the fourth quarter compared to more cautious expectations over the last three months.

Just over 10 per cent of hiring managers expected to use a staffing or recruiting firm to help them search for permanent employees in the fourth quarter, compared to only nine per cent during the third quarter. CareerBuilder's quarterly Staffing Supply and Demand Outlook, which tracks current and projected use of staffing firms by employers and job candidates, is pointing to more activity in health care, technical and contract hiring for staffing firms. The study included over 5,200 hiring managers and over 9,000 workers.

"As companies begin to shift their focus from cost containment to growth, they are evaluating their existing talent pool and filling any gaps with top performers that are essential in driving their businesses forward," said Eric Gilpin, President of CareerBuilder's Recruiter Business Unit.

Permanent and Temporary Hiring

For the second quarter in a row, a higher percentage of hiring managers report that they expect to utilize a staffing firm to fill open positions. Nearly 15 per cent of hiring managers expect to utilize a staffing firm in the fourth quarter, compared to only 13 per cent in the third quarter.

Hiring by Industry

Hiring managers in the office/clerical sector expect their temporary hiring needs to improve the most, with 2.1 per cent of those surveyed reporting they expect to hire a temporary office/clerical position through a staffing firm. This is compared to 1.3 per cent one quarter ago, a gain of nearly a full percentage point. However, temporary positions in the technology sector remain the most common positions hiring managers expect to hire through staffing firms.

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Who's playing at halftime?
The Who are likely to be the headliner at next year's Super Bowl halftime show, a source tells Sports Illustrated. But as certain as the source may be, the NFL isn't confirming anything about entertainment at the Feb. 7 event. METRO WORLD NEWS

Entertainment

Jon hits back
Jon Gosselin has filed a $5 million US lawsuit against TLC, claiming its representatives interfered with potential business opportunities. The suit is a counterclaim to the one TLC filed against Gosselin for breach of contract. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

A remarkable body of work

While rumours swirled, Taylor Lautner hit the gym

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Taylor Lautner wants to clear something up: He has no problem with going shirtless on screen.

"One thing that I have heard recently, which is not true and I didn't say, was that I will never take my shirt off for a movie again," says the 17-year-old actor, whose abs and pecs have been under an unprecedented amount of scrutiny since he packed on 30 pounds of muscle for New Moon, the second film in the Twilight series.

"I didn't say that," he insists. "If the character requires it, I will."

That's good to know, since with the rabid fan response to early shots of a shirtless Lautner in New Moon, he'll probably be asked to appear that way a lot. Of course, before getting to this point, Lautner had to prove to the powers behind the hugely successful franchise that the cute little guy who played Jacob Black in the first film could transform as his character does for the sequel.

KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner star in The Twilight Saga: New Moon.

The Twilight Saga: New Moon hits theatres on Friday

And while there was a lot of talk in the press that the producers were looking to replace him, Lautner said he had to ignore all of that.

"Honestly, I knew where my character went in New Moon, and that's all I tried to stay focused on," he says. "I couldn't control things outside, I couldn't control the media. But I could control what I was doing to portray Jacob Black correctly, so that's what I stayed focused on the whole entire time."

That focus paid off, as is evidenced by his gym-toned physique, plastered over New Moon ads and the cover of Mens Health. But Lautner claims the hard part wasn't hitting the gym.

"The most important thing was the eating side," he says. "Everybody thinks it was the actual getting in the gym, but that was easy. I was motivated. But the eating was pretty hard. We found out that I had to consume at least 3,200 calories a day just to maintain, and I was trying to gain."

VideoOnline
Meet Jacob Black in a video featurette on New Moon's lead werewolf at metronews.ca.

That meant stopping to eat every two hours or so, regardless of where his busy schedule took him, and carrying around bags of high-protein food, sometimes pausing mid-meeting to wolf down a couple of burger patties.

But Lautner insists it was all part of the job. "A year from now, if I love a character and I love a story that requires me to lose 40 pounds, I'm ready to do it," he says.

Still, all the attention he's been getting must be distracting, right?

"I don't think there's any way to prepare yourself for this phenomenon," he says. "None of us expected it when we were filming Twilight. I don't think there's a way to ever get used to it. It's not normal to drive down a street and see your face up on a billboard. But it's Twilight. It comes with the job."

As for all the tabloid attention, he does his best to keep a level head about it. "I try and stay away from what's been written about me, because if (you) let that stuff get to you and it's not true, it can drive you crazy," he says.

What a doll

Back in August, Bella and Edward from the Twilight saga were immortalized as Barbie dolls. Now, fans will be able to add Jacob to their collection, people.com is reporting. The new doll, modeled after Taylor Lautner's boy-turned-werewolf character, Jacob, features cut-off denim shorts, a mysterious gaze, and the super-toned abs that have gained attention onscreen and off, the website reports. It's available in February for $24.95 U.S. METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Cindy Crawford

House searched in connection with alleged Crawford extortion plan

INVESTIGATION German police said yesterday they had searched a home in connection with an alleged extortion scheme targeting former supermodel Cindy Crawford and her family.

U.S. authorities had said Thursday that a German man had been charged in the U.S. with trying to extort $100,000 US from Crawford and her entrepreneur husband Rande Gerber over a photo of their daughter, then aged seven, bound to a chair and gagged.

He was accused of threatening to sell or release the photo to the media.The daughter told her parents, who were unaware of the photo, that her former nanny took the picture as part of a "cops and robbers" game, according to an affidavit.

U.S. authorities say the suspect, 26-year-old Edis Kayalar, was taken into federal custody in the U.S. for an immigration violation three months ago and deported to Germany.

Several items were confiscated from the apartment in the Stuttgart area but nobody was arrested in the search on Saturday, a police spokesman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Want to get away, Boss?

Bruce Springsteen bellowed "Hello, Ohio!" to his fans in Michigan. The 60-year-old rock legend referred to the neighbouring state several times Friday night until E Street Band guitarist Steve Van Zandt whispered in his ear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTO CREDIT

Mariah Carey plays a very unglamorous social worker in Lee Daniels' latest film, Precious.

Mariah's mustache?

Singer 'hysterical,' says Precious director Lee Daniels

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

So many incredible and unexpected things have happened to Precious director Lee Daniels in the past few years.

The list covers such a broad scope — from getting financing to make a film about a 350-pound illiterate teenage girl who is pregnant for the second time by her father (not an easy sell), to winning three awards at Sundance, to then getting the backing of heavyweights Tyler Perry and Oprah Winfrey — that he doesn't even know how to talk about it.

"How do I even articulate it?" he asks rhetorically.

"When I do films. I expect them to go straight to DVD. Then Oprah is on the phone with me? How do I process that?"

He might have to process a lot more — the buzz around Precious as being a front-runner for an Oscar is deafening.

"It's hard to embrace love sometimes," says Daniels.

"My friends are telling me that I really need to hang onto these moments and embrace them. But (at screenings) the applause is so loud that it's almost so embarrassing that I have to leave."

"When (Mariah Carey) is behind closed doors, I think she really is closer to Ms. Weiss than she thinks."
Director Lee Daniels

In Precious, Mariah Carey has a supporting role as the social worker, Ms. Weiss, who sports a faint mustache.

Yes.

A mustache. On Mariah Carey.

"Let me tell you, it was hysterical and sad all at the same time," laughs Daniels.

"She was so out of her comfort zone, but I think that's what made her performance more outstanding and honest. She is so used to having accoutrement.

"But when she is behind closed doors, I think she really is closer to Ms. Weiss than she thinks."

Daniels says he was surprised that Perry — from the Madea franchise fame — was interested in the project.

"Tyler Perry is in a demographic that doesn't really follow (my films)," says the openly-gay Daniels.

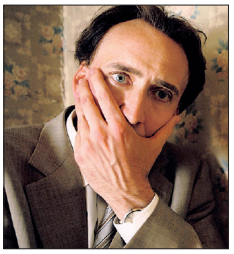
"African-Americans don't seem to follow me like they do Spike Lee and Tyler. So it's nice to have his support – I know people need to see this film and he'll help make that happen."

• Precious opens in theatres this week.

Movie **feature**

Jazz plays to Cage's dark side

CHRIS ALEXANDER
For Metro Canada



Nicholas Cage.

FEATURE In 1972, he took us down river into the heart of darkness in Aguirre The Wrath of God; in 1982's Fitzcaraldo, he hauled a massive steamboat over a mountain and, in 2006's Rescue Dawn, he turned Christian Bale into an insect-eating P.O.W.

Now, celebrated German arthouse director Werner Herzog resurrects actor Nicolas Cage's long lost edge in his berserkly entertaining re-imagining of Abel Ferrara's notorious 1992 portrait of police corruption and drug fuelled madness, Bad Lieutenant.

Herzog's Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans — opening Friday — sees Hollywood heavy hitter Cage starring as a neurotic cop whose various addictions are slowly getting the better of him.

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans opens in theatres this Friday

As he gets deeper entwined in a confounding murder investigation, he rides off the rails, veering into chemically tweaked eccentricity with near operatic aplomb.

"Nicolas's performance is often like jazz," says the 67-year-old Herzog.

"But he's still embedded in a very clearly defined part. When he goes wild, it's within clear structures of a situation, it's still controlled."

If any filmmaker alive understands how to essay bad behaviour on screen, it's Werner Herzog.

Fans of Herzog's work are aware of his iconic and volatile working relationship with the late method actor Klaus Kinski, one of the most bizarre and fascinating of director/muse pairings in film history.

It was that legacy that first attracted Cage to the role.

"Werner has a high tolerance for intensity," Cage says. "He gave me the freedom to experiment with my performance but also find the dark humour in the outrageousness of the characters behavior."

Part of Bad Lieutenant's power also lies in the thick, sweaty atmosphere Herzog wrings out of battered New Orleans locales.

But surprisingly, it was Cage who suggested they move the action essayed in William Finkelstein's screenplay to the Louisiana city which, to further the influence on Cage's persona, is also the birthplace of jazz itself.

"I'm pretty connected to New Orleans," Cage admits. "When I directed Sonny there (referring to his 2002 directorial debut), I had this strange, frightening, personal experience and I had to leave immediately. But as time went on, I wanted to finally face those demons."

MEDIA INNOVATION AWARDS

VIPS GET THE METRO GREEN CARPET TREATMENT

Guests got the green carpet treatment from Metro at the Media Innovation Awards hosted by Marketing Magazine the evening of November 12th

Kraft and **MediaVest** won Best of Show, and Mediavest won Gold in the newspaper category for the Swiffer Condo Program Campaign that ran in Metro.

Nicolas Faucher and Daniel Barbeau – Journal Metro, Sunni Boot – Zenith Optimedia and Paul DeRose – Metro

Rosina DiFelice – Starcom
Rachel Levy – Metro

Tammy Gardner – PHD
Marc Lawrence – Metro

Leslee Hersh – Metro

Michelle Jairam – OMD, Heidi McLeod – Metro and Debbie Hoover – Media Experts

Tal Ben-Izhak/Pose Photos

Lauren Zelikovitz – OMD
Allyson Banks – OMD

Photo by Thinkbox

Pratt pleads not guilty

The Hills' Stephanie Pratt pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor DUI Friday and plans to enter a 30-day residential rehab facility. Pratt, 23, was arrested in Hollywood the morning of Oct. 18 for suspicion of a DUI. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Guitar rehabilitation

Songwriter Bragg appears on film for latest social cause

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Just a few weeks ago, Billy Bragg got together with Mick Jones and Topper Headon of the Clash to record an old song. It was an historic occasion, the first time Headon and Jones had been in a studio together in 27 years.

Things hadn't been going well for Headon the last time in 1982. He was addicted to heroin and tossed out of the band.

Billy Bragg performs on Tuesday at the Phoenix Concert Theatre

Headon was looking good this time around, though. Just being in the presence of these two Clash alumni made Bragg glow. A 1978 Clash concert is what had inspired a 17-year-old Bragg to become a songwriter. He's since become somewhat of an institution himself among Britain's leftwing punk intelligentsia.

The song these three aging rockers chose to record was Jail Guitar Doors, a very early Clash single, written about Wayne Kramer, notorious lead singer for the MC5. Like Headon, Kramer fell victim to his addictions and did prison time for selling drugs.

The session was being filmed for a documentary called Breaking Rocks about Bragg's latest social cause — prison reform. Bragg figures prison inmates can be rehabilitated by giving them something creative to do, like playing a guitar.

So he's formed a charity with the goal of placing five or six donated guitars in every jail in Britain. The charity is called Jail Guitar Doors, just like The Clash song about Wayne Kramer.

In the last two years, Bragg has distributed more than 300 guitars to British jails.

"I just took delivery of 24 guitars last week which are now sitting in my hallway waiting to go out," Bragg says from his home in southern England. "I get 'em 24 at a time. Each one of them is spray-painted with a Jail Guitar Doors slogan."

The guitars seem to be working. Bragg gets fan mail from inmates telling him how much a difference they have made. He stays in touch. Two members of the band that backed Headon, Jones and Bragg on the recording session were graduates of the Jail Guitar Doors.

Bragg, who performs Tuesday at the Phoenix Concert Theatre in Toronto, hopes to spread the idea to North America.

While on tour, he's been asked to meet with musicians in Alberta and Toronto about setting up local chapters.

Bragg already has Wayne Kramer — yes, that same Wayne Kramer from MC5 — on side in California.

As a matter of fact, Bragg got a fully rehabilitated Kramer on stage with him and Jones at the Oct. 1 premiere of the Breaking Rocks documentary. The three performed Jail Guitar Doors, of course.

"We did Kick Out the Jams as well," Bragg beams. "Yeah, it was great. We had the best time."

Jail Guitar Doors is a charity that was formed by musician Billy Bragg to help inmates reform by learning to play guitar.

"I just took delivery of 24 guitars last week which are now sitting in my hallway waiting to go out... Each one of them is spray-painted with a Jail Guitar Doors slogan."
Songwriter Billy Bragg

Keys talks music, feelings, influences and life balance

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

Metro catches up with artist Alicia Keys in New York's East Village to discuss her latest album, freedom and Madonna…

Q There is a lot more '80s-inspired sounds reminiscent of Prince, Madonna, Michael Jackson ... on this album, The Element of Freedom.

A It's really funny; some people say, "It sounds like Michael Jackson! It sounds like Fleetwood Mac! It sounds like Madonna!" I'm like, Madonna?! Really? That's cool! I never sit down and contemplate what it's going to sound like. I went into this album knowing I wanted to try new styles.

Q You said you felt lonely during the last album and that you have found balance with this one. What happened last time?

A A lot of things were different back then. What I've learned is that I love my job. I love the effect that it has on people and when people come to me I've gotten them through certain times in their life, there's no greater reward. There's also a balance between working and life, I learned that it's possible to do both. You don't have to choose career over life or life over career.

Q The lyrics to your songs are very personal. Did you tap into your own life and feelings?

A All the songs have emotions and feelings that I've been through, that I'm going through or that I was going through. It's open to interpretation because when I listen to the songs I know what I was thinking or what I was feeling. Sometimes when other people are listening to them they get a whole other story from it. It's kind of fun, like "wow, what did they take from it?"

Q You did a duet on Jay-Z's album. Is there anyone else you'd like to work with?

A So many people… Prince is top of my list. I'd like to do something with Gwen Stefani, M.I.A. and Lady Gaga.

Alicia Keys

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Cuthbert as parade marshal
A Hollywood actress best known for her role as Jack Bauer's daughter in the hit television show 24 will lead the Grey Cup parade through the streets of Calgary on Nov. 28. Elisha Cuthbert, 26, will act as the parade marshal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Style bloggers bring fashion to the masses

Thirteen-year-old Gevinson's site is example of how online show and tell is changing

Socialite

Rea McNamara

Read her blog at metronews.ca/socialite

During the spring/summer 2010 ready-to-wear shows, the biggest trend wasn't the micro mini or the transparent blouse — it was the style blogger.

"Previously fashion was so alien and so hierarchical," explains street-style photographer Scott (The Sartorialist) Schuman in last weekend's Financial Times feature. "Bloggers show the average person that they too can be part of it."

But fashion bloggers are only part of the story: More and more, websites and bloggers are changing online show and tell. No longer is watching ourselves, and each other, a narcisistic compulsion. We are becoming more visual in our tastes, and increasingly determining fashion trends online.

Take Tavi Gevinson, the 13-year-old style blogger who's been called in that same Financial Times piece a "phenomenon." While her runway commentaries are insightful and her squee-ish love for certain designers is endearing, it's the what-I-wear outfit postings on her Style Rookie blog that garnered her that September cover for British style magazine Pop.

Sure, Gevinson's just playing dress up — but she isn't alone in her bedroom doing it. She's posting it on her blog, and sharing it with others.

I first discovered Gevinson last year on Lookbook.nu, "a simple digg-type platform where Gen Yers around the world are posting their fashion creations and getting rated by their peers" (Business Weeks' words, not mine).

The viral capability of Lookbook.nu (and other outfit-sharing networks like Chictopia and Weardrobe) removes the middle man, offering something print fashion magazines still find challenging: Bringing fashion from the runway to the real-world.

Websites Polyvore and Looklet allow fashion-forward people the chance to mix and match outfits by dragging and dropping images of clothing into their own fashion spreads and onto virtual models.

Polyvore and Looklet are fast garnering advertisers because they're redefining e-commerce: We're no longer pleased to just zoom into the clothing, we want to style and share it, and then maybe buy it. In a profile on Polyvore, the New York Times reported how the site's unique user traffic was 25 per cent more than Vogue's Style.com.

So brands have jumped the wagon: Earlier this year, American Apparel featured Karla Deras, a popular outfit blogger on Chictopia, in an ad campaign for their California Selects vintage collection

And Gevinson? Well, she posted an outfit inspired by the '60s cult film Harold & Maude. When upstart label Rodarte revealed its upcoming Target collection, the press reported how some of the pieces were inspired by the film. (Gevinson's followers weren't surprised: she's Rodarte muse, and helped them with the collection).

GETTY IMAGES

Left: Tavi Gevinson attends the Alexander Wang spring 2010 fashion show at Pier 94 on Sept. 12 in New York City.

Rea McNamara writes about the on/offline statuses of niches and subcultures. Follow her on Twitter @reeraw

Web watch: Surrender to the trench

• Burberry's branded social network Artofthetrench.com recently launched with a hundred globetrotting on-the-street snaps by photographer Scott (The Sartorialist) Schuman of everyday subjects in their classic trench. Users can view, filter and share shots via Facebook or Twitter, and even upload their own pics. You can even spot trench-outed Canadian personalities like Much Music VJ Sarah Taylor or MTV Canada After Show host Dan Levy.

Right: Burberry spring/summer 2010 collection (London Fashion Week)

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Death and after-death in Iceland

BookPicks

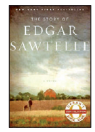
Hypothermia

Author: Arnaldur Indridason
Publisher: Random House Canada
Price: $32 (Hardcover)

Detective Erlendur returns to investigate a murder in Hypothermia, which is Icelandic literary star Arnaldur Indridason's eighth installment in the Reykjavik Murder Mystery series. The detective's latest case involves the demise of Maria, a woman found hanged to death in a cabin near a Reykjavik lake. Dismissing suicide, Erlendur delves into the woman's history, discovering her interest in the afterlife following the death of her parents at a young age. At the same time, Erlender is dogged by the unresolved disappearance of two young locals, as well as by his own jagged past and present.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

Author: David Wroblewski
Publisher: Anchor Canada
Price: $22.95 (Paperback)



There's something rotten in the state of Wisconsin in this latter-day interpretation of Hamlet by first-time novelist Davie Wroblewski. Edgar Sawtelle may have been born without the ability to speak, but its his observations that propel his tragic tale. Raised on a dog breeding and training farm, Edgar has found that canines really are man's best friend. After watching his father die, he suspects foul play; but revenge gone wrong leads him to escape on a journey into the backwoods with a trio of dogs. His evasion is short-lived, as he must decide whether to keep running or return to keep his past and present.

A Touch of Dead

Author: Charlaine Harris
Publisher: Ace Books
Price: $30 (Hardcover)

In A Touch of Dead, Charlaine Harris compiles the first-ever collection of previously published short stories starring clairvoyant waitress Sookie Stackhouse of The Southern Vampire Series. The blood-sucking storyline that inspired HBO series True Blood sees Sookie's psychic ability put to use to solve murder and crime with supernatural connections. In Dracula Night, Sookie must come to the rescue at a birthday party for Dracula when an imposter tries to pass himself off as the Prince of Darkness; while in One Word Answer, Sookie finds her cousin's death wasn't her first end, thus revealing her vampire identity.

— BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

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NASA throws jeers at 2012 for bad science
NASA is trying to dispel some rumours that have been going around surrounding the new doomsday movie 2012. Its website tells movie viewers nothing bad is going to happen to Earth on Dec. 21, 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flashpoint wins 3 at gala

Gemini award winners praise Canadian talent, values

Producers of the cross-border hit Flashpoint held it up as an example of what Canadian television is capable of as the slick CTV cop drama took home three Gemini Awards on Saturday, including best drama.

Canadians can be less than supportive when it comes to watching homegrown shows on the small screen.

But executive producer Bill Mustos said there's actually a lot to be proud of, and other countries are taking notice.

"I think Flashpoint has moved things into a new direction and now American networks are looking across the border and seeing that there is actually tremendous talent in (Canada)," he said just after winning the final award of the broadcast gala.

"That's an exciting kind of new sea change for our country."

Of course, not every Canadian show is a hit. The quirky country-music show "Three Chords from the Truth" won for best comedy ensemble performance despite being cancelled after only 10 episodes.

"There's nothing better than being recognized by your peers," star Phyllis Ellis said as she accepted her Gemini. "Except for maybe a second season."

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Being Erica's Erin Karpluk celebrates her trophy for Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role.

"Anybody wanna buy a TV show?" interjected a castmate.

CBC's Rick Mercer Report took the award for best comedy, while George Stroumboulopoulos was honoured as best talk show host for a second year running.

Stroumboulopoulos said his show is attracting interest from other countries because it reflects Canadian values.

"To be able to make television in the country that you love and the country that you want to make television in, man, that is a gift," he said. "And we think we can do this stuff and talk about Canada and other parts of the world and everybody else kind of picks up on it."

Flashpoint star Enrico Colantoni, who won best actor, was lured back to his hometown of Toronto for the series after working for nearly 25 years in the United States on shows such as Just Shoot Me and Veronica Mars.

He called it "a wonderful way to come home."

"This show represents a nation, in a way, we're representing in the United States and the world," Colantoni said. "It's like, 'this is what we can do.' "

The drama about a S.W.A.T. team working in Toronto also won three awards at a pre-show ceremony and nabbed the best director trophy for Kelly Makin. Colantoni's co-star and fellow best actor nominee Hugh Dillon also won an award for best supporting actor for the TV movie Of Murder and Memory.

The sexy period drama The Tudors' was shut out at Saturday's broadcast awards after earning 11 nominations overall. It had already won four trophies in separate ceremonies held last month.

The Calgary gala no doubt made it special for Albertan Erin Karpluk, who took best dramatic actress in Being Erica.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gemini winners

Here are some of the best in Canadian television:

- Best dramatic series: Flashpoint.
- Best comedy program or series: Rick Mercer Report.
- Best dramatic miniseries: Burn Up.
- Best reality program or series: Dragon's Den.
- Best host or interviewer: George Stroumboulopoulos, The Hour.
- Best news anchor: Diana Swain, CBC News at Six.
- Best performance by an actor in a continuing lead dramatic role: Enrico Colantoni, Flashpoint.
- Best performance by an actor in a leading role in a drama or miniseries: David Suchet, Diverted.
- Best performance by an actress in a continuing lead dramatic role: Erin Karpluk, Being Erica.
- Best performance by an actress in a lead role in a drama or miniseries: Christine Ghawi, Celine.
- Best performance or host in a variety program: Leah Miller, So You Think You Can Dance Canada, Season One.

Taped Oscars shun spotlight

AWARDS Without the burden of a live worldwide broadcast, members of the film academy threw themselves a lively yet relaxed dinner party to honour the first Oscar winners of the season.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences broke with tradition and presented its honorary Oscars off-camera Saturday night, months ahead of the televised ceremony in March.

Actress Lauren Bacall, B-movie king Roger Corman and Godfather cinematographer Gordon Willis each received Oscar statuettes during the black-tie banquet at the Grand Ballroom above the Kodak Theatre, the same room where the annual post-Academy Awards Governors Ball is held.

In addition, producer John Calley was honoured with the Irving J. Thalberg Memorial Award, recognizing career accomplishments that include Catch-22, The Remains of the Day and The Da Vinci Code.

Each of the recipients was chosen by the academy's Board of Governors.

Tom Hanks, Jack Nicholson, Annette Bening, Morgan Freeman and Steven Spielberg were among the 600 invited guests at the inaugural Governors Awards event.

GETTY IMAGES

Roger Corman honoured.

"We're gathered here together, all artists, celebrating excellence without any television cameras – isn't it great?" said veteran producer Norman Jewison.

Corman, 83, was lauded for being a champion of independent and efficient filmmaking and for promoting women to positions of leadership long before it was popular.

Quentin Tarantino said the man behind films such as Bloody Mama and X: The Man With the X-Ray Eyes, inspired him to become a filmmaker.

Though not televised, the Governors Awards were taped and portions will be shown during the 82nd annual Academy Awards on March 7, 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **2012:** $65 million US
2. **A Christmas Carol:** $22.3 million
3. **The Men Who Stare At Goats:** $6.2 million
4. **Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire:** $6.1 million
5. **Michael Jackson's This Is It:** $5.1 million
6. **The Fourth Kind:** $4.7 million
7. **Couples Retreat:** $4.3 million
8. **Paranormal Activity:** $4.2 million
9. **Law Abiding Citizen:** $3.9 million
10. **The Box:** $3.2 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandy settles with plaintiff

R&B singer Brandy has avoided a civil trial over a fatal December 2006 car crash by settling with the last remaining plaintiff in the case. Awatef Aboudihaj died after her car collided with Brandy's Range Rover three years ago. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Goldstein estate suing

Court documents say the estate of Adam (DJ AM) Goldstein is suing several defendants for wrongful death.

Goldstein sustained serious injuries in a plane crash in September 2008 in South Carolina and later died of an accidental overdose of prescription drugs and cocaine in August in New York.

Before his death, Goldstein filed a negligence and breach of contract lawsuit.

The amended complaint filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court names several defendants, including Clay Lacy Aviation and Learjet Inc.

The 26-year-old Goldstein was known for his disc jockey skills and his relationships with actress-singer Mandy Moore and reality TV star Nicole Richie.

Attorneys for Clay Lacy Aviation did not respond to a request for comment. A message left with a lawyer for Learjet was not immediately returned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Goldstein

Wipeout contestant dies

RARE CONDITION A contestant who was hospitalized after competing briefly on the ABC game show Wipeout died two weeks later of a stroke, apparently caused by a rare condition, his father said.

Tom Sparks, 33, was participating in the first segment of an obstacle course Oct. 19 when he complained of knee pain, according to Endemol, the company which produces Wipeout for ABC.

Producers had him stop, Endemol said last Thursday. On-set medics examined Sparks, noticed he was short of breath and took him to a local hospital. He was moved to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and underwent several brain surgeries, according to TheWrap.com. Sparks couldn't be saved because of the brain damage that had occurred, the website said.

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TV tax issue coming to courts

Canadians have seen the ad war over TV taxes, now comes the real thing. For the next two weeks starting today, representatives of Canada's television industry will speak with the CRTC about paying for the right to carry conventional television. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Comcast prepares to take control of NBC

Eight decades after pioneering the concept of broadcasting, NBC is on the verge of a startling move that illustrates broadcast television's decline.

Cable TV operator Comcast Corp. is expected to buy a controlling stake in NBC Universal, perhaps as early as next week, bringing the network of Johnny Carson, Jerry Seinfeld, Bob Hope, Milton Berle and Tom Brokaw under the corporate control of the company that owns the Golf Channel and E! Entertainment Television.

"This is highly symbolic," said Tim Brooks, who worked at NBC for 20 years and now writes books on television history.

Starting Sunday, Vivendi SA has an option to sell its 20 per cent stake in NBC Universal. Majority owner General Electric Co. is expected to buy it and then sell a 51 per cent stake of the entire NBC Universal unit to Comcast, which serves about a quarter of the nation's subscription TV households.

In this 1976 file photo, Barbara Walters and former NBC Today show host Hugh Downs are seen during sunnier times in NBC history. Eight decades after pioneering the concept of broadcasting, NBC is on the verge of a being taken over by cable giant, Comcast.

Broadcast people, the folks who remember when television was ABC, CBS, NBC and little else, used to look down upon cable.

The idea of broadcast TV was implied in the name; the networks tried to reach the broadest possible audience. For cable it's important to do something specific and do it well, and the audience need not be as large.

NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker recognizes this. Cable properties such as USA, SyFy, CNBC and The Weather Channel mean more to NBC Universal's bottom line than staggering NBC, fourth place in the ratings.

And those cable properties — more than the flagship "Peacock" network — were the draw for Comcast. By owning more content, Comcast further hedges its bets as mainly a distributor of shows in case viewers ditch their cable TV subscriptions and migrate to the Internet, mobile devices or a platform that has yet to emerge. The company could charge for the shows or sell ads wherever the viewers are.

In a sense, NBC would become a pioneer again, as it seeks to stay relevant amid intensifying audience fragmentation. But still this could be considered bittersweet at best to some.

"Without NBC, there wouldn't be broadcasting as we know it," said Walter J. Podrazik, a curator at the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

A REAL CONFESSION A British scientist, Brooke Magnanti, has revealed she is Belle de Jour, the anonymous blogger whose accounts of life as a call girl were turned into a book series and TV show, Secret Diary of a Call Girl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Good Voices Wanted For TV and RADIO

TRYOUTS BY PHONE for men and women with Radio/TV potential are on at Canada's NIB Broadcast Training Centre.

"We offer special Studio Courses full time or part time for people with good voices, all ages," says Mary Adams, "For News, Sports and Commercials, as Talk Hosts, Entertainment Reporters, DJs and Celebrity Interviewers." Places are limited. To try your voice -

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Eastwood named Legion of Honour commander

FRANCE

Clint Eastwood

French President Nicolas Sarkozy made American actor and director Clinton Eastwood a commander in the prestigious French Legion of Honour on Friday.

The citation for the highly coveted decoration said Eastwood, 79, was honoured for his body of work, his longevity and his ability to delight audiences around the globe.

Former French President Jacques Chirac had honoured Eastwood as a knight of the Legion of Honour two years ago, and Friday's decoration was a step up for Eastwood to grade three on the legion's five-grade scale.

Speaking in English, Eastwood thanked Sarkozy and the French people.

"This is a wonderful honour," Eastwood said. "It is just a great pleasure for me. I really love France. I love movies, and I love the appreciation that the French people have for movies," he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO 11/16/09

	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Battlefield Mysteries		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Teamwork" (N)		(9:01) Lie to Me (N)		Heroes (HDTV) (N)		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Battle of the Blades (N)		Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma "M'aidez" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars The four couples perform.				(10:02) CSI: Miami (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*A Little Princess* ★★★★ (1995, Drama) Eleanor Bron.				*The First Wives Club* ★★★ (1996, Comedy) Goldie Hawn.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Chun Yi
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*Nurse Betty* ★★★ (2000, Comedy) Morgan Freeman.				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Heroes (HDTV) (N)		Trauma "M'aidez" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars The four couples perform.				(10:02) Castle (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	(10:02) Castle (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "Teamwork" (N)		(9:01) Lie to Me (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		American Experience		Documenting the Face		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		*65 RedRoses* (2009)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		Warren Buffett and Bill Gates		The Business of Innovation		Biography on CNBC		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Hockey Subway Super Series: Russia at QMJHL. From Drummondville, Que. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Cleveland Browns. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy (N)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Drake & Josh	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It (N)		House-Sell	Divine Design	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	So You Think You Can Dance Canada				One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention "Lana"		Intervention "Leslie"		Hoarders (HDTV)		Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	I Liceali				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*Destination: Infestation* (2007, Suspense)				Bones (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	The Scotiabank Giller Prize		Natalie MacMaster & Friends Talents.			The Fureys at Home in Ireland		Kaeshammer	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		10 Pounds	10 Pounds	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic-Perfect	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Battlefield Mysteries		Patton 360		Battles BC (N)		Generation Kill "A Burning Dog"		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Bill Engvall: Your Sign		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Mission: Impossible III* (2006, Action)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Unit		The Unit		The Unit		Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Fire Serpent* (2007, Science Fiction) Nicholas Brendon.				Sanctuary
	581	566	52	MTV	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Real World-Road Rules		The Hills	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Food Jammers	Food Jammers	Top Chef: Las Vegas		At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		My Husband	Summer Wine	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Unscripted (N)	Archaeologist	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Hubris"		Missing "In the Midnight Hour"		The Closer "LA Woman"		Cold Case "Hubris"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) *Static* (2008)		Sanctuary (Part 2 of 2)		Dexter "Road Kill"		Californication	U.S. of Tara	Lock 'n Load
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:10) *Crime Spree* ★★ (2003, Comedy-Drama)				*The Blair Witch Project* (1999, Horror)			*Book of Shadows*	
	520	-	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Mattress Recycler"		Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Sexiest Body Parts		1st Class Way

critics'corner

Trauma

A high-speed boat collision interrupts a wedding celebration at sea, where things get lost in translation as the team tries to help the injured. Nancy takes time to reconnect with her family. Marisa comes to the aid of those close to her in the new episode "M'Aidez." 9 PM on NBC CITY

Battle of the Blades

The votes are in, and tonight we'll find out which odd-couple team of a champion figure skater and a hockey player is Canada's favorite. But expect some special surprises in the hourlong season finale before the big announcement. Ron MacLean and Kurt Browning co-host the festivities. 8 PM on CBC

Heroes

Samuel discovers how powerful he can become and goes to dangerous lengths to reach his full potential. Tracy starts to lose control of her ability just as someone close comes in harm's way. Matt and Sylar's battle continues in the new episode "Brother's Keeper." 8 PM on NBC; 10 PM on GTV

Castle fans may be charmed

Further proof that Castle is growing into something of a hit: The guest stars are getting more recognizable. Ex-Charmed sorceress Alyssa Milano has signed on to play a former love interest of Nathan Fillion's title character. EW.COM

Stephen King takes us Under the Dome

When Stephen King was honoured with the Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in 2003, the National Book Foundation said, "He crafts stylish, mind-bending page-turners that contain profound moral truths — some beautiful, some harrowing — about our inner lives."

And that was before Under the Dome, King's just-published, 1,100-page-long tour de force about the lightning-swift disintegration of civilization that occurs when a small town is cut off from the world by an invisible dome. It is the sprawling good-vs.-evil of the The Stand reined in on a smaller stage. King is in town Thursday to promote the book.

Conversation

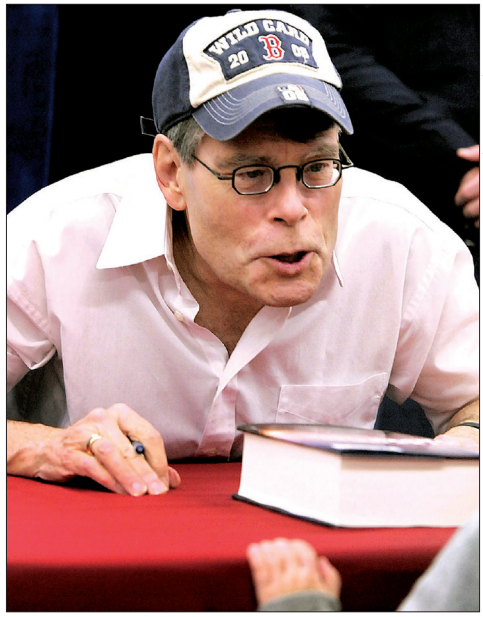
- What: An Evening with Stephen King.
- When: Thursday, 8 p.m.
- Where: Canon Theatre, 244 Victoria St.
- Tickets: $28 and $33 at ticketking.com

Under the Dome knits together many themes from King's mind-boggling production: corruption, loss of faith, abuse of power, denial of reality, the possible heroism of the ordinary person, redemption and, yes, buckets of moral truths. Also, of course, creative disembowelment and blood-dripping, severed limbs twitching gently in the afternoon breeze.

While there's a strong liberal streak running through most of King's work, the politics is more overt in Under the Dome.

"It's a pretty political book. I tried to write this book in the '70s ... I had the idea, wouldn't it be a terrific image to have these people out at the edge of this force field, looking out at this press conference? I can see that, people knocking at the dome," King said. "You couldn't see anything that was there, but it would be totally separated, like fish in an aquarium.

"The minute I had the image, I really wanted to write this because it had these terrific ecological implications. Because we're all under the dome. We all live on this little planet. Our resources are limited and our populations continue to grow ... we're running out of things, we're crowding each other, we have different theologies and, sooner or later, people get irritated and things happen. The way they happened on this U.S. army base (Fort Hood). People get angry. I really wanted to write this but there were so many technological issues, meteorological issues and I kind of got scared."



GENE SWEENEY/BALTIMORE SUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Author Stephen King goes to battle against American politics in his novel Under the Dome.

As it was in The Stand, faith and religion are explored in Under the Dome. Is the author religious?

"I'm not the sort of religious person who goes to church ... I have serious problems with organized sectarian religion. I think it's 90 per cent of all the trouble in the world."

"But the idea of faith, the idea of God, the idea of a higher power that calls on us to be better than we would be otherwise, I'm very attracted to that. I'm the kind of guy who prays, 'Give me faith. Let me believe in this.'"

On Thursday, in what could be the geek-out event of the season for horror fans, King will have a conversation with David Cronenberg (who directed The Dead Zone some 25 years ago) at the Canon Theatre.

"I love David's work. I've been watching David Cronenberg movies since Rabid and The Brood and there was a movie called They Came From Within (a.k.a. Shivers) back in the '70s ... I have never seen a Cronenberg movie that didn't interest me. There were one or two that weren't as successful as the other ones, but I'm sure he feels the same about my books ... In terms of chronology we've had a very similar timeline. A dream director for Under the Dome?

"Martin Scorsese. Because he's terrific on a big canvas. Cronenberg would be great too. I'd love to see him go back to a more naturalistic kind of feeling.

"When I see him, I'll say, 'David! Baby! Why don't you do this?'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Mix of Six

Dance

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, featuring The Rockettes, perform through Wednesday at the Air Canada Centre, 40 Bay St. $35.50 to $84.50. radiocitychristmas.com.

Science

Body Worlds, an intimate look inside the human body, is currently on display at the Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd. ontariosciencecentre.ca.

Activity

The Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay W., will be hosting skating classes for all skill levels through Dec. 6. Register by calling 416-973-4093.

Book

Author Victor Lodato will read from and sign copies of his newest book, Mathilda Savitch: A Novel at 8 p.m. at McNally Robinson, 1090 Don Mills Rd.

Orchestra

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, featuring pianist Yuja Wang, performs at Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., at 8 p.m. Tickets are $29 to $128. 416-593-4828.

Comedy

The Rivoli, 332 Queen St. W., presents stand-up comedy with Fraser Young, Pat Thornton and others. 9 p.m. For details, visit the website altdotcomedylounge.com.

Lamas gets arrested
Shayne Lamas was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving in Venice, Calif., around 1 a.m. Saturday morning. "I take full responsibility for my lack of judgment," said Lamas, who is due in court Dec. 9, to E! News. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Did Jolie plant Aniston stories?

THE ORIGINAL MEAN GIRL Is Jolie the worst Mean Girl of them all — and is Brad Pitt's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston her most-wounded victim?

Brangelina: The Untold Story of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie reports that Jolie, 34, waged "a mean-spirited but effective campaign" against Aniston around the time that Pitt divorced her to be with Jolie, usmagazine.com reports.

The new Us Weekly has the exclusive first look at what's really inside the shocking new tell-all — and reveals the truth behind some of the alleged bombshells.

Author Ian Halperin asserts in his book that Jolie and her camp (including her manager Geyer Kosinski and brother James Haven) planted press stories in 2005 that painted Aniston in a negative light. Specifically? That Aniston firmly prioritized her career over starting a family — which put her directly at odds with Pitt, who ached for kids.

Jolie, Halperin writes, "was convinced that this is the story that would resonate with all these women who saw her as a man-stealing bitch."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Jessica Simpson is influenced by her surroundings, Snoop Dogg heads to the Playboy Mansion, Al Roker doesn't feel like talking to Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag knows how to make a Saturday night special.

• @JessicaSimpson
WOW!! Children make me a child again. So interesting.

• @snoopdogg
oowee luv them playboy bunnies!! Kiccn it with hugh right now.. This cat a real true pimp.. Ya heard

• @alroker
Programming update. No Heidi/Spenser interview. We wish them well on their book tour

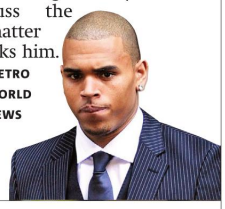
• @heidimontag
shooting at the gun range!

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brown follows Rihanna's lead

GOING PUBLIC Chris Brown is following Rihanna's lead and hitting TV shows to discuss his assault conviction. "At the end of the day, I'm human. I can't make everybody love me, but I can just try. And I can honestly say that I'm sorry," Brown, who says he's "embarrassed" by what happened, tells BET's 106 and Park program. He also admits Rihanna's decision to go on 20/20 to discuss the matter irks him.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Behaviour is all an act, claims Fox

ALWAYS ACTING? Megan Fox is just fine with all the attention she gets, since it's all an act, she claims to the New York Times. "I'm not willing to give my true self up," the 23-year-old Transformers star says. "You have to be put in a box in this industry so they can sell you."

METRO WORLD NEWS

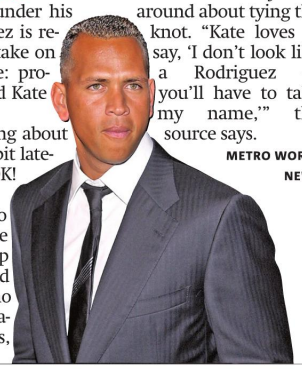
Rodriguez to propose?

MARRIAGE SPECULATION With the World Series under his belt, Alex Rodriguez is reportedly ready to take on his next challenge: proposing to girlfriend Kate Hudson.

"He's been talking about proposing quite a bit lately," a source tells OK! magazine.

"He wants to think of a creative and cute way to pop the question." And the couple, who have been inseparable for months, have even been joking around about tying the knot. "Kate loves to say, 'I don't look like a Rodriguez — you'll have to take my name,'" the source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Kourtney baby shower

ALL IN THE FAMILY It was all about adding to the Kardashian clan Saturday as nearly 80 guests joined Kris Jenner and her daughters Kim, Khloe, Kylie and Kendall to host a baby shower for Kourtney, people.com reports.

The first-time mom-to-be, 30, is due in December, with boyfriend Scott Disick's baby.

"It was a huge success," a source tells People of the shower, which began at noon and was organized by Los Angeles-based event planner Sharon Sacks, at the family's home in Hidden Hills, Calif.

Other guests included Kim's BFF, Tres Glam jewelry designer Brittny Gastineau and Kris's good friend, comedian Heather McDonald, a regular on Chelsea Lately.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Psychic inspires O'Donnell to reveal break-up details

PUPPY LOVE Rosie O'Donnell may have said last month that she was done commenting on breakup rumours dogging her relationship with her partner of five years, Kelli Carpenter, but that changed Friday, people.com reports.

On her Sirius Satellite radio show, O'Donnell suddenly admitted Carpenter had moved out of their home two years ago. The reason for the big reveal? A pressing psychic and a long-haired chihuahua.

"Where did you get her from Rosie? Because she says she came from somewhere. And she said she's happier with you," pet psychic Sonya Fitzpatrick said of O'Donnell's dog Misty. "She's so spoiled and she loves to burrow."

O'Donnell confirmed: "She does! She burrows in the bed right next to me."

And, when asked who "sometimes looks after her," O'Donnell explained her four children all fight over caring for the pup. "What happened (was) when Kelli moved out two years ago, I got the dog. Because I wanted another child or something to love. And I got the dog."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lack of special treatment leads to Lohan meltdown?

SPOILED LITTLE RICH GIRL Lindsay Lohan isn't getting the same treatment from bars and clubs she did when she was at the height of her fame, and she's reportedly none too thrilled about it, if a recent episode at Crown Bar in West Hollywood is any indication.

"Lindsay stormed into the kitchen and grabbed two bottles of really expensive champagne. She finished both bottles with a friend. When the bartender gave her a bill, she had a meltdown," a source says, according to Hollyscoop. "She was yelling at him and screaming profanities at everyone. The bar insisted she pay, so she had to call a friend with her credit-card information."

Lohan was spotted leaving the club around 2:30 a.m. "She was crying and wanted to go home," the source says. "She kept saying 'I don't pay for drinks! This is ridiculous! I'm freaking out!'"

METRO WORLD NEWS

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#133 11/09

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Today Mainly sunny 8° / -1°
Tuesday Sunny 6° / 0°
Wednesday Sunny 8° / 2°

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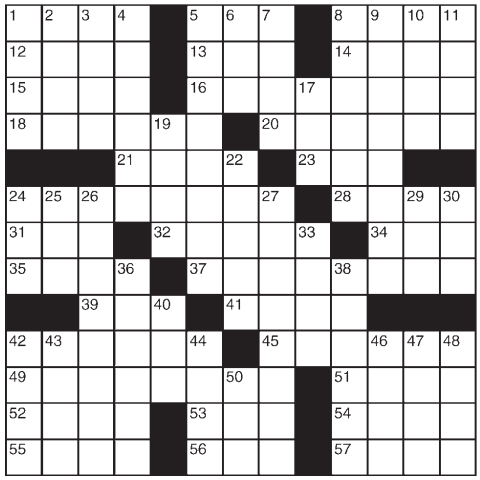


Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				6		9		
2					5	8		3
			8			2		
		1	4		8	6		7
5		6	9		3	4		
		7			4			
9		2	6					1
		3		5				4

ACROSS

1 Trade blows
5 Light application
8 Slays, syndicate-style
12 Perspiration vent
13 Gorilla
14 Highland hillside
15 Verve
16 Lack of restrictions
18 Strong greenish blue
20 Pal
21 Restaurant list
23 CSA soldier
24 Impassioned
28 Pleasant
31 Judge Lance
32 Japanese, e.g.
34 Scoot
35 Pinnacle
37 Left to fend for oneself
39 Listener
41 Rim
42 Hitchcock or Nobel
45 One offering securities
49 Elsa's tale
51 Salver
52 Duel tool
53 Em halves
54 Being (Latin)
55 Ogler's look
56 Drenched
57 Week components

DOWN

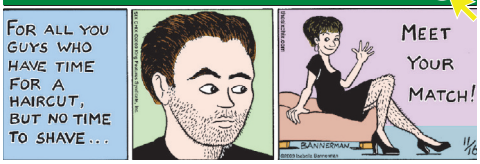
1 Detail, for short
2 Game played on horseback
3 Bedouin
4 Change the title
5 Insanity
6 Springtime mo.
7 Surf-and-turf part
8 Leno's successor
9 Lynyrd Skynyrd classic
10 Willing, old-style
11 Transmit
17 Bobble
19 Golf legend Tony
22 Join together
24 By way of
25 And so forth (Abbr.)
26 Out of harm's way
27 Last to miss the deadline
29 Prompt
30 Conclude
33 Gripes repeatedly
36 Breadwinner
38 Fit inside one another
40 Sports arbiter
42 Cain's victim
43 Bound along
44 Sketched
46 — Minor (constellation)
47 Simple
48 Deli loaves
50 Away from WSW

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

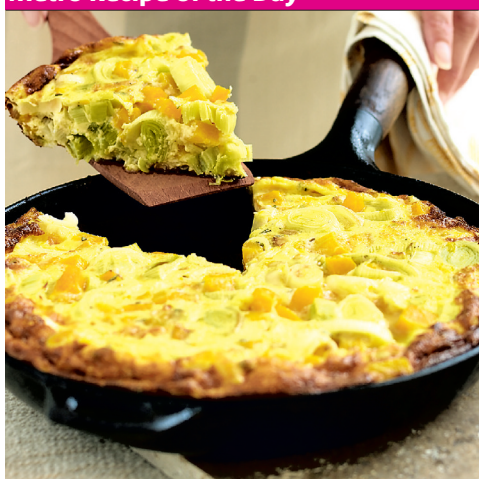
7	5	4	3	8	6	9	2	1
6	9	3	2	4	1	5	8	7
1	2	8	7	5	9	3	4	6
3	4	1	6	2	5	8	7	9
5	8	6	9	7	4	2	1	3
9	7	2	8	1	3	6	5	4
8	1	9	4	3	2	7	6	5
2	3	5	1	6	7	4	9	8
4	6	7	5	9	8	1	3	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Country Frittata

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
3 leeks, sliced into rings
1/2 butternut squash, peeled and cut into small cubes
2 tbsp (25 ml) pine nuts
8 eggs
1/2 cup (125 ml) 10% cream
3 tbsp (45 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
2 fresh sage leaves or small bunch of fresh chives, about 3/4 oz (20 g), chopped

METHOD:

1. Heat olive oil in heavy cast-iron or nonstick frying pan (10-12 in./25-30 cm diameter) that can be used safely under broiler (wrap wooden handle with foil).
2. Add leeks and squash to pan and stir well. Cook over medium heat for 10 minutes or until just soft, stirring frequently. Stir in pine nuts.
3. While vegetables are cooking, break eggs into large bowl. Add cream, Parmesan and herbs. Season and mix thoroughly with fork. Stir in cooked vegetables, then tip mixture back into pan.
4. Turn down heat and cook gently 4-5 minutes or until almost set. Meanwhile, preheat broiler to high.
5. Slide pan under broiler and cook frittata 2-3 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Eat hot or warm, cut into wedges.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Sometimes your views, especially about material matters, have been a bit too rigid in the past. But now you can see there are more important things.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A new moon in your opposite sign means you can't have things all your own way, but why would you want to?

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You need help occasionally like everyone else, and now is the time to ask for it — especially if you find yourself being left behind on the work front.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your self-belief may have taken a dive in recent days but the new moon in your fellow water sign of Scorpio will bring your confidence flooding back.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You no doubt feel sorry for someone whose luck has deserted them, but keep your distance and don't get personally involved.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Today's new moon will make you more outgoing than usual. That's good, because increased social contact could lead you to useful information.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Something will happen today that makes you feel a whole lot better about your long-term prospects — emotional, professional and even financial.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
What happens today, tomorrow and in the run-up to the Sun's change of signs on Nov. 22 will make you realize that life is good and getting better.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You'll be asked to help a friend in need today and you won't think twice. But make it clear that you expect them to look after themselves in the future.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will leave an important task to the last possible moment today, but that's OK, because you thrive on that sort of pressure.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
No matter how many times you may have fallen short in the past, you will succeed now. Your ambitions will be intensified by today's new moon.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The only reason some people don't want you to do anything out of the ordinary today is because they are worried it will make them look bad.

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